

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

# SOCER

VOL. 23 No. 1085 — TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2002



REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST  
• PUBLICATIONS NO. NBQ5726

WEEKLY

\$3.60  
GST INCLUSIVE

## D'AVRAY'S DEFENSIBLE DECISION PAYS OFF

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory coach Mich d'Avray has had the last laugh over his decision to play the first leg of the Major semi-final at home when his team did just enough against Newcastle United at Energy Australia Stadium last Friday to claim direct entry and home ground advantage to the 2001-02 National Soccer League championship Grand Final.

Former Ipswich Town star d'Avray rebuffed the tradition of playing the first leg away from home and as it turned out, his decision has been shored firmly in the face of his detractors.

"As it happens, he is a genius but if it had gone the other way he would have been a bloody idiot," quipped Glory's assistant coach Alan Vest who once led Newcastle KB United.

The 0-2 loss by a vastly rejuvenated and resolute United side in front of 17,503 lively fans meant the NSL Premiers scraped through to the show-piece of Australian soccer 4-3 on aggregate; after ripping United apart at Subiaco Oval the previous week.

"It was the right choice," said Glory striker Bobby Despotovski, who was never able to replicate the form that netted a double the week before.

"If we lost 2-0 to Newcastle at Newcastle first, then I think it would have been difficult to beat them 4-1 at home as we did a fortnight ago," he said.

Goalkeeper Jason Petkovic, who had a torrid time thwarting a ninety minute blue and red tidal wave, believed the 3-goal buffer would have played a significant part in his team's lack of resolve.

"The fact that we had such a big advantage made us a bit complacent but we showed a lot of character to

hold on and get the result that we wanted," he said. Despotovski was equally constructive about the defeat.

"We can take some positives out of this result," he said.

"We lost the game sure, but we know we cannot afford to produce another performance like that first forty-five minutes. I think in a way, it is good for the side to lose because it will make us regroup for the final," said Despotovski.

Despite heaping praise on his opponents form reversal, d'Avray still believed his charges deserved to go through.

"Over the two games I don't think anyone can deny us the fact that we got the result and I'm just very pleased that we are able to host the grand final in front of our home supporters — because I think we deserve it," he said.

A quality first-half double to Fijian international striker Esala Masi, together with solid performances from skipper Matt Bingley, Alex Moreira, Milan Blagojevic, Joel Griffiths and Andy Roberts, was not quite enough to dislodge the Glory from a grand final direct entry, even though they made the visitors look anything but championship material in the first-half.

"We started sluggishly and couldn't get anything into the strike-zone for the first forty-five minutes," said Despotovski.

"The second-half however, was different, we come out determined not to concede a third goal and we achieved that."

One aspect of the match that appeared to have unsettled the Glory side was the thunderous vocal support for the Newcastle team.

Continued on page 9



Mich d'Avray (left) has taken the Glory to the final while Perth captain Bobby Despotovski celebrates the aggregate victory over Newcastle last Friday night.

## SHARKS SET UP DATE WITH NEWCASTLE

By Stuart Jones

Olympic Sharks and Newcastle United face up to each other at Marathon Stadium at 2.30pm on Sunday with both coming off confidence boosting victories.

Sharks coach Gary Phillips is very aware of the task that is before his side and unlike some pundits is not willing to accept the fact that his side are virtually through already.

"Every game is a different one, form means nothing in the finals. Newcastle knows they can beat Perth now and they will be high on confidence, it is going to be a tough match. I hope they are still coming down off the high of last week's match and we can catch them out. We definitely need the likes of Troy Halpin playing well for us to win. I am confident we have the personnel to take the match out but it is going to be difficult away from home and in front of their parochial support."

Captain Clint Bolton shares his coaches wariness: "We are going up there and are going to play in front of a big crowd but we are not afraid of that, that is what we play for - to be in front of big crowds. We have never discounted Newcastle and won't now. Their form is great and we have found it hard to score against them this season. However if we play like we did tonight then I am sure the chances will come."

For Newcastle the game will again provide the chance to prove the critics wrong. They do know they can beat Perth now so may feel they are just one step away from the ultimate prize. Certainly the crowd will be an important aspect of the match and will be a big boost for the locals. Coach Ian Crook will want to show they are not just a workman-like team but one deserving of an NSL trophy. The success of United both on and off the field is reflected in the fact they

are one of the final three teams left. As valiant as South Melbourne's run was, and as hard fought and tenacious the Strikers' season, the best three teams of the competition this season are left to fight it out for the title.

Ian Crook will have to bring his side back to earth this week after just missing out on the grand final directly. Gary Phillips will be looking for his chargers to remain as positive in their play as they have been over the last couple of matches. Ante Milicic is a major injury concern and Troy Halpin also continues to play despite needing an operation at season's end.

The clash in playing styles will be an interesting one as United's seems more suited to finals football but the Sharks have been most successful in their finals campaign so far. These teams have some of the most passionate supporters in the game so hopefully it can also be reflected on the pitch by the players. Should be a corker.

### NATIONAL LEAGUE CLUBS IN FINANCIAL CRISIS

By Mark Stavroulakis

It is no secret that the National League has gone through a tough phase this past season.

Apart from a footballing sense, the game itself has suffered financially.

National League clubs have taken a nose-dive, with many teams taking a semi-professional stance in the current financial situation.

Continued on page 5

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**AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH  
SOCCER**  
WEEKLY

Issue No. 1086  
Published every Tuesday by  
F.L. Press  
118-124 Bourke Rd,  
Alexandria NSW 2015

**TELEPHONE**  
(editorial and general enquiries)  
Tel: (02) 9690 7159  
or  
Tel: (02) 9690 7165

(advertising)  
John Economos  
Tel: (02) 9744 6984  
Ben Moring  
Tel: 0438 849 053  
or  
Tel: (02) 9690 7167

**E-MAIL**  
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)

ABSW's new E-mail:  
soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au

**FACSIMILE**  
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)  
(02) 9310 4425

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
P.O. Box 155 Marrickville NSW 1475

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
Sylvia Marinos  
Phone: (02) 9690 7100  
Australia: \$195 (GST incl.)  
Overseas: \$255 (GST incl.)

**EDITOR**  
Mark Stavroulakis

**STAFF WRITER**  
Daniel Kuziow

**LAYOUT/TYPESETTING**  
Mary Quartly, Almita Vea

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# AUSSIES ABROAD

BY BINESH MUDALIAR

## EXCLUSIVE

An update this week on Aussies in Greece. Goalkeeper K Y R I A K O S TOHOUROGLOU after starting for PAOK Salonika at the start of the season is now covering for George Pourlopoulos.

Midfielder BILL DAMIANOS is training with SKODA Xanthi after leaving Kalithea. ABSW has got word that Parramatta Power have made a bid for the services of Damianos. Former Young Socceroo KOSTA SALAPASIDIS has returned to South Australian State League side Olympic FC after a stint with Kalithea.

Here's one that not too many people in Australia would know about. Former South Melbourne player JOHN SAMARAS has been head coach at Greek First Division club OFI Crete for two years!

Former Kingsgrove Olympic midfielder GEORGE PASSIOS has signed a contract extension with AEK Athens. The 21 year-old recently underwent a knee reconstruction.

★★★

It's often the case in English reserves football these days that a number of Aussies feature on either side.

Case in point, AFC Bournemouth's 3-0 win against Leyton Orient last week. For the Cherries reserves, South Australian goalkeeper Dimitri Brinias played the second half and kept a scoreless sheet following a good save with his legs from Aaron McLean and scrambling a header off the line after his initial error in misjudging the flight of the ball into the penalty box.

For the O's, two Aussie trialists donned the boots. DARREN BROXTON played the first 45 minutes while MATT ROSIER played the full 90 minutes.

★★★

It hasn't been a good week for several Australian players overseas.

Former Socceroo JASON VAN BLERK's recent roller coaster ride in England's lower divisions continues with Hull City announcing that the former Millwall, Manchester City, WBA and Stockport County

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defender had been axed. Van Blerk joined Hull in January of this year.

Van Blerk's Aussie teammate, ADRIAN CACERES has also been shown the door. The Argentine-born West Aussie has also been something of a nomad since being signed by Glenn Hoddle in September 2000 for Southampton. The 20 year-old forward went on loan to Brentford before getting the chop by the Saints in March. Caceres signed with Hull until the season's end and despite scoring twice on debut in a reserves fixture, could not make sufficient impact at the senior level.

Meantime, another West Aussie, ANDY PETTERSON has been released by West Bromwich Albion. The former Portsmouth keeper was signed as a short-term cover for Russell Hoult. Pettersen was one of three high profile Baggies players dumped during the week. The others were Northern Ireland international James Quinn and former Newcastle United and Tottenham winger Ruel Fox.

And according to a leaked report obtained by the BBC, Nottingham Forest may be forced to sell some of their young talent to steady the ship at City Ground. According to the report, Forest owe creditors more than 12 million pounds and Aussie defender GARETH EDDS is a candidate to be offloaded following his trials at Reading and Walsall during the season.

★★★

Former Blacktown City junior CRAIG MOORE may miss the Scottish Cup final despite return-

ing from injury against Aberdeen on the weekend.

More told the Scottish Football website, "Everything's fine but it's the fitness after being out for three months — it's a long time to be out and then come back in."

"Whether or not I'll be fit, there's still a bit of a question mark over that to be honest."

★★★

Reports from Leeds United

### SOCCER TRIVIA

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suggest that former Joey SHANE CANSDELL-SHERIFF may be given a run in David O'Leary's senior side as a reward for his excellent form in the reserves this season. Leeds have won a spot in the UEFA Cup next and with no chance of making the Champions League, talented youngsters such as Cansdell-Sheriff, Frazer Richardson and Harpal Singh are hopeful of a first team game before the season is out.

Meantime, Leeds manager O'Leary has commented on the MARK VIDUKA injury that kept one of Australia's greats out of the Fulham game. O'Leary was quoted on Leeds United Teamtalk as saying, "He (Viduka) picked up this ankle injury by over stretching; he went for a silly challenge in a five-a-side match and he hurt his ankle."

"Mark has been hitting good form and we really needed him in the final few games. His presence up front was missed against Fulham."

★★★

"The signing of the season" is how Walsall boss Colin Lee has described STEVE CORICA's re-entry into English football.

The former Marconi Stallion, who is on loan from Japan's Sanfrecce Hiroshima, scored a brace in Walsall's final Division One game of the season two weekends ago, in a match which ended Walsall 2-2 Bradford City. Lee continued to praise 'Bimby' by telling Planet Football, "I'll do everything I can do to get him signed for next season."

"He has been one of the major factors why we have escaped relegation."

★★★

**BRETT EMERTON** update: Yawn. Is 'Beauty and the Beast' on yet? The tiresome rumour mill surrounding Emo's departure from Feyenoord Rotterdam hit the English tabloids this week with The Sun newspaper claiming that The Kop will make a 8 million pound move for Emerton and have begun the recruitment process by letting Jamie Redknapp move to Spurs and Gary McAllister take over the manager's job at Coventry City. Another installment of Emo next week?

★★★

In bloom Socceroo stopper SHAUN MURPHY has told the Sheffield media that a return to Australia is on the cards following the completion of the 2003/2004 English season.

The 31 year-old last week signed a contract extension with the Blades following excellent form upon his loan return from Crystal Palace.

Murphy said, "Perth is my home and that's where I'll eventually settle. Hopefully, I can put in a couple of years with Perth Glory."

★★★

## Quote of the Week



Former 1860 Munich and current Fenerbache boss Werner Lorant has made his wish list of players for the next Turkish Superlig and European Champions League season.

Those coveted include Hakan Sukur (Parma), Paulo Sergio (Bayern Munich), Okan Koc (Genclerbirliyi), Krassimir Balakov (Stuttgart), Washington (Ponte Preta), Raymond Kalla (Extremadura) and Paul Agostino (1860 Munich).

Here's what Lorant had to say about Agostino:

"I want to sign my former player Paul Agostino very much, because we need a player like him. He is even a better player than his compatriot at Leeds United, Mark Viduka."

## Player of the Week



JASON CULINA is an Aussie in demand. The former Sydney Olympic midfielder has been given a free transfer by Ajax Amsterdam and has already been tracked by two clubs in Holland, a Belgian outfit and Greek giants Panathinaikos.

Another Aussie who maybe running around at Leoforos Alexandras Stadium next season is FC Basle's SCOTT CHIPPERFIELD. Chippers, who has just won the Swiss League title with fellow Aussie Ivan Ergic, has had talks with ex-Panathinaikos president Angelos Filippidis.

Meantime, ABSW has got word that Parramatta Power striker BRETT HOLMAN is off to trial at Feyenoord.

Eighteen year old midfielder RAUL CARUZO broke his leg during an under 19 game between West Ham and Wolverhampton.

Caruzo is trialling with the Hammers following a stint in Italy with Fiorentina and Serie C club Alessandro.

**Eddy Bosnar of Sturm Graz (Austria).**

Bosnar scored a superb long-range to help Sturm Graz defeat Bleiburg 3-2 in the semi-final of Austria's OFB Memphis Cup on the 24th of April. Sturm Graz play Ross Aloisi's old side, GAK, in the cup final on May 12.

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# EDDIE THOMPSON HITS OUT AT SOCCER AUSTRALIA

By Daniel Kuzlow

**F**ormer national coach Eddie Thomson has said that Soccer Australia's current player wage constraints could be the catalyst for the future soccer misfortunes of the Socceroos.

Under Soccer Australia's current proposals national team players selected for the Oceania Nations Cup have been asked to take a drastic pay cut as the governing body attempts to reduce its outstanding debts, while



Eddie Thompson: Former Socceroo coach.

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overseas based Australians eligible to play in the competition have been requested to pay for their own airfare over to New Zealand.

Thomson told *The Daily Telegraph*, "SA must look at the bigger picture. Its financial problems will not go away unless we qualify for the Confederations Cup."

"I'd hate to be in Frank Farina's shoes at the moment."

"How can he possibly ask some of our foreign-based players to pay for their own air ticket if they want to play? He'd been too embarrassed."

"You can't assume that because Mark Viduka and Harry Kewell are paid big bucks by Leeds that they should put their hands in

the NSL-based players to compete without the benefits of match payments or daily allowances."

"Farina won't find it easy talking some of the locals like Damian Mori and Steve Horvat into playing. They've been around too long."

"SA is simply showing no vision and the ramifications down the line could be far more damaging than possibly imagined."

"If I cast my mind back to 1998, Raul Blanco was forced to field a locally-based team and was beaten by New Zealand. He got the sack," Thomson added.



their pocket to pay for an air ticket. It's wrong."

Thomson also conceded it would be difficult convinc-

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# TERRIFIC YEAR FOR THE BRISBANE STRIKERS

By Glenn Davis

**I**ts sounds clichéd but it's true — the Parmalat Brisbane Strikers were the big winners of all the clubs in the national league this season.

Booted out of the competition by Soccer Australia and reinstated at the last minute, the Strikers went from wooden spoon favourites to making the playoffs and within a whisker of playing out a Hollywood script to relive memories of its historic grand final win five years.

The Strikers were the team they couldn't kill - a collection of pros, veterans and youngsters and with the flair and magic from the stylish talents of Brazilian import Fernando Rech.

When assessing the team's fortunes this season, spare a thought for their coach John Kosmina, the former Socceroo striker hoping to be reappointed for his fifth term next season.

Kosmina's time in Brisbane since he moved north from Newcastle four years ago has been marred by controversy but none was of his own doing.

Political infighting between the Strikers' administration and its former ally, the Queensland Soccer Federation, stymied the club's operations and greatly affected the players' performance on the field.

This season, however, has been different since its reinstatement and Soccer Australia's decision to recognise that the Strikers held the national league licence in its own right.

"We didn't have the off-field politics that

we have had in the last couple of years and rows over ownership issues," Kosmina said.

"Two years ago we were top of the table and went unbeaten in our first nine games but the politics does have an effect on the team."

"You have got to have stability to be successful at a club - and you need stability to be successful at the top of the organisation running the league."

Kosmina still recalls the time the Strikers were reinstated back in the league.

"I remember I got up at 5am the next morning after we were reinstated to ring Jason Kearton who was playing with Crewe in England and I had been in touch with Kris Trajanovski," he said.

"John Carbone wasn't wanted by Perth and had sent me his resume and my son told me how Richie Alagich was killing them in Adelaide."

"We didn't have a big budget and we had to be realistic who we could afford."

"The transition from part time to full time went smoothly and eventually we got a good blend of youth and experience."

Kosmina believed Kearton's influence in goal was a major factor in the side's performances this season and singled out several other players for special mention.

"Shane Steffanuto had a terrific season, Alagich was good in midfield and Foster and Fernando Rech struck up an immediate combination," he said.

"It's been a good and happy season and a major turnaround from events off the park in past years."

"But we've got to build from here. We've set a benchmark and now we have to set

higher targets."

"We probably could have gone further but we finished where we deserved."

Kosmina believes the Strikers' youth policy must continue to flourish if it is to be a strong force in future years.

"We've had a stable season but we need to reassess our situation every six months," he said.

"We're looking at younger kids coming through the system all the time but we've got to keep hold of them."

"We need to build some history at the club now."

Youngster Matt McKay typifies the tradition Kosmina hopes to build at the Strikers.

"When he was five his father took him to Saints, the local club at Eight Mile Plains.

At 11 he was playing for Mt Gravatt and was a Strikers team mascot.

He had Strikers posters on his bedroom wall and looked up to players like Nick Meredith, Rob Brown and Frank Farina and was part of the 40,000 crowd when the Strikers won the 1996-97 NSL title.

And when he was announced NSL Youth League Player of the Year while playing at the AIS last season, all he wanted to do was become a Striker.

"I was very disappointed when they were kicked out of the competition," McKay told the media before the Strikers lost 2-nil at home to South Melbourne in the elimination final.

"I always hoped they would get back in and as soon as they did I started talking to the club."

"When we got together at the start of the season our aim was always to make the finals. The way it happened was amazing."

# KNIGHTS TURN TOWARDS NEXT SEASON

By Bert van Bedaf

**S**uddenly the lights went out and the Knights took a bow as they left the stage. There were no encores.

There was no Second Coming nor a reprieve. A 6-2 trouncing by Olympic Sharks meant the end of the road for the Melbourne side that met its objective but went no further than the elimination final.

The Knights nudged the top six all season and finally secured sixth spot at home against Northern Spirit with a round remaining. Their assignment against the Sharks was going to be a tough one any which way and looking beyond that horizon was like finding a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

In truth, the Knights reached their potential this season. There wasn't much more left in the tank for a team of part-timers, who train during evenings.

Goal keeper Martin John and striker Joel Porter are couriers during the day. Defender Sash Ognenovski is a carpenter. Socceroo Steve Horvat runs a cafe in Geelong and captain-coach Andrew Marth is a manager with a carpet company.

A finals spot was an outstanding achievement. The Knights proved a team with modest abilities, but a team with a lot of heart nonetheless. You need a lot of heart at the Knights, because there's not a lot of luxury.

Wages are modest even for the better players, such as Horvat, budding Socceroo and Warren Medal contestant Porter and Angolan star Toto Da Costa.

Inconsistency, four home losses and a leaky defence cost the Knights a bigger shot at the national title. The side scored 41 goals but conceded 40 goals during the regular season.

The Knights managed eleven wins, three draws and ten losses, much of those conceded with a soft goal or two. They won six times at home and drew three times.

On paper the team looked good, but on the field it could falter badly.

John made some important saves, but he could also make some costly mistakes.

He as well as Rody Vargas, Ognenovski and Horvat sometimes looked terribly vulnerable, allowing the opposition to score demoralising counter goals.

When Kresimir Marusic arrived last February, after a falling out at Sydney United, it should have added to the Knights' attacking midfield. But Marusic, who won the NSL title with the Knights in 1995, made less of an impact than supporters had expected of him.

Similarly, another late signing Ivo De Jesus lifted expectations when he arrived last November. But the striker never really got going.

As the Knights' main striker, Da Costa joined forces with Porter, with each scoring eleven goals.

It goes to show that skill can match power when it comes to finding the net. The pair display contrasting styles. Da Costa shows silky skills, but he can go down a bit too easily. Porter adopts a bustling style, but his limited technique can let him down.

With Marusic disappointing, the Knights midfield struggled all season and especially Andy Vargas pushed a big load. The Knights had modest contributors in Alex Kiratzoglou, Joey Rajher and Ivan Jolic.

With the budget as minimal as Bi-Lo, the Knights relied heavily on young talent and struck some youngsters that made the fringe and occasionally were called upon.

Xhezairi Sulemani became a surprisingly striking super-sub. Daniel Piorkowski proved

useful in defence, while Anthony Pelikan showed maturity.

A real blow was the long-term injury to Daniel Vasilevski, who stood out earlier in the season.

The Knights are set to lose some players. Porter is looking towards England or Holland. Da Costa might be on the move within Australia. Marusic is uncertain to stay.

The rock of the side is Marth himself. There is no other player in the NSL-like him. Marth has been the mainstay for the Knights for so long, it is hard to imagine the team without him.

He scored the opening goal in the losing grand final against South Melbourne in 1991 as a 22-year-old and, apart from three seasons with defunct Carlton, he has been a loyal foot soldier, corporal, lieutenant, captain and general at the Knights.

This season he's had to stretch himself so thin, he could have been pulled through a letterbox. He's added to the defence, marshalled midfield, helped out as a striker and scored goals. Sometimes, it looked there were three

Andrew Marth's on the field and if there had been the Knights probably would have finished even higher on the ladder. Marth took the 6-2 elimination loss to the Sharks particularly hard, since he'd felt the Knights had their chances, particularly since their away record was pretty good with five wins.

Also, the Knights took the lead, through Porter, after eleven minutes and were in the box seat. They conceded four goals, including a penalty which cost Porter a red card.

"We gave away four goals from stupid mistakes," Marth fumed. "I was still confident at 2-1, but once the third goal went in, I knew we were struggling," he said.

The Knights administration wants Marth to hang up his boots, but, at 33, Marth wants to play for another season.

"I've got another year left in me and I'm going to play," Marth said.

Knights president Ange Cimera reckons Marth should stick to coaching next season. "We gave Andrew a two-year contract to coach and he will be in charge next season. But his playing contract expires this season and we're going to assess the situation," Cimera said.

The general mood is Marth will settle for a compromise, coming off the bench when required.

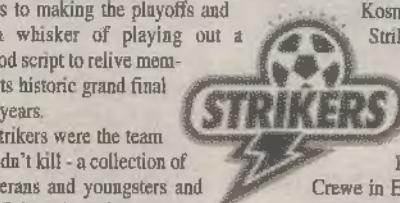
Assistant coach Luciano Trani has proved to be an excellent statistician and tactician for Marth and will continue to do so next season.

As youth coach, Trani won the national youth league with the Knights. A former Victorian Premier League player with Fawkner, Trani started coaching the U15 Knights in 1998. Together with Marth, Trani will lead the recruiting for next season.

"We'll concentrate on the premier league. We'll need to pick up at least two or three players from there," Marth said.

There is hope that Ante Kovacevic might return from Adelaide City. "A lot depends whether the club can afford his terms," Marth said.

The Knights are yet to unveil their plans for next season, but it might include a new home ground and a new playing venue with perhaps even a new name, Melbourne United, as well as a new financial and management structure to start a new era at the club.



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# NATIONAL LEAGUE CLUBS IN FINANCIAL CRISIS



Newcastle United



**By Mark Stavroulakis**

*Continued from front page*

Each National League club had its own views on the year that was; New Zealand side Kingz FC struggled both on and off the pitch. The side finished in last position and failed to generate crowds at the Ericsson Stadium. Things were made even worse for the Kiwi side with major stakeholder SKY Television reducing its ownership to 10% and it still remains to be seen as to whether the Kingz will enter the competition next season.

In Melbourne, the Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne are both suffering financially.

The Knights are believed to be servicing a \$1 million deficit, while

South Melbourne declared an operating loss of \$1,029,952 for the financial debts and on paper anyway look solvent. The Knights are contemplating selling Knights Stadium, which is estimated to be worth \$4.5million in real estate, while South claims net assets of nearly \$5 million.

Nevertheless, the situation is far from assuring and both clubs are cutting players' wages as budgets shrink. "The reality is the club hasn't had a good year financially and we may have to cut costs again," captain-coach Andrew Marth said.

The Knights have always been part-timers, but South Melbourne has had

two high-flying seasons with full-time contracts as a result of the club's World Cup adventure in Brazil, which earned it \$3.5 million.

Now that the money's run out, South is reverting to part-time in a bid to cut costs. "Players' wages have to come down. Clubs cannot sustain those (high) salaries," South coach Eddie Kracevic observed.

As early as last December, South president George Vasilopoulos outlined the rising costs that drained clubs. "We took \$3,800 at the gate, but we had bills of \$50,000 for one game," Vasilopoulos explained then.

"Full-time coaches and full-time players looks good, but the money has never been there. We are paying players (up to) \$100,000 per year without an income stream, without money from television rights and reduced sponsorship. We make ends meet with board members putting in money from their own

pockets," he said.

Vasilopoulos blamed new clubs that had entered the NSL for inflating

costs and wages. "New clubs such as the Perth and Northern Spirit's supposedly lifted the bar by introducing full-time professionalism," Vasilopoulos said. "They suddenly tripled wages, but there's not one club in the NSL that makes money," he said.

Adelaide City Force, buoyed by the return of White Knight, Gordon Pickard, aims to move out of the shadows of its finals failure faze and buck into strong fiscal mode next season.

Leading South Australia property developer, Pickard will back the club with a six-figure sponsorship over the next two years, thereby taking a huge load off the hip pocket nerve of City president Bob D'Ottavi.

The latter has kept the proud club afloat with unshining zeal for several seasons, but he created a situation that could not continue indefinitely.

Adelaide City, a founding member of the NSL, endured its worst on field performance on record this season when it finished second bottom on the championship rung.

City's player turnover was incredibly high with the exit gate swinging with monotonous regularity.

The ray of light that brightened the gloom came with the emergence of the clubs outstanding young talent, who responded admirably to the promptings of experienced trio, Aurelio Vidmar, Carl Veart and Ante Kovacevic. The Pickard rescue package should improve the prospects of Adelaide City both in keeping the bulk of its current squad and in increasing its purchasing power on the recruitment front.

Northern Spirit is staring directly at massive cost-cutting initiatives in order for the club to survive next season.

This crisis comes even in the face of their alliance with Scottish Giants Glasgow Rangers who are becoming more agitated with the lack of performance from their North Sydney based club.

Most recently Rangers' Director of Football Dick Advocaat on his visit to Australia was amazed at the lack of quality on the pitch, while the off-field dramas have already taken hold with media manager David Mason set to revert to part-time and Phil Moss on the

outer and looking for a new job after being informed that his contract would not be renewed.

Spirit CEO Colin Mitchell however has squared the problems of his club at the inefficiency of Soccer Australia saying "SA try to concentrate on the big things like the Confederation Cup bids. The management are letting soccer clubs in this country play."

"And when they do, SA will point to the clubs and say I told you so, but the real villains in this crime will be the seemingly directionalist board of Soccer Australia."

The once mighty model of Northern Spirit is a dream that is slowly dying. The rot is set to continue unless the crowds come back to North Sydney Oval and better direction to the clubs in terms of where the NSL is going; "As for our future" said Mitchell "if someone can tell me what the future of Australian Soccer is then I could tell you what is happening with Northern Spirit".

The Wollongong Wolves have lost a six-figure sum this year and are facing a large pay claim from their player's union due to the cancellation of the World Club Championship.

Chief executive Mike Crowe said the decision not to restructure the league for 2002/03 meant that the club has had to weigh up their options before deciding on their future.

The 35 shareholders will be asked at a meeting next month to keep the Wolves in action.

Crowe said while Wollongong is not in serious financial difficulty, it had to consider whether it made financial sense to stay in the league.

"We're not in financial straits. We certainly have the asset backing to proceed," Crowe said.

"We have cash reserves but we're burning them up in a league showing no promise of improvement."

"We have to ask ourselves if it's wise business sense to continue."

"The passion's there to continue. But ultimately the shareholders will voice their opinion."

"With a blueprint in place for the league, I don't think any club would be questioning continuing in the league," Crowe said.

"Having no blueprint throws concern into all the clubs."

The World Club Championship disappointment has further cut into Wollongong's budget.

The Wolves qualified as Oceania's representative, but the competition was cancelled by FIFA.

Wollongong was given \$1.23 million in compensation, of which the players have been offered \$123,000 for the seven Oceania qualifiers played.

The players' union wants \$750,000, which works out at nearly \$40,000 per man.

Parramatta Power also had a tough season, the side missed out on a semi-final spot causing gates to decrease rather than increase. This year saw the emergence of a number of quality youth players who will no doubt leave a mark on the club.

Newly appointed coach Nick Theodorakopoulos has been given a 2-year deal whereby the Power board led by Denis Fitzgerald demand success. It is known that failure to gain big sponsors and any crowd increases will mean that the Power will have no choice but to pull the pin on the side. However, rumours circulating the grapevine suggest a number of high quality players are said to be on Nick's hit list, all will be revealed soon.

Traumatic scenes were evident at Marconi, where in the past couple of seasons, finance was highly evident at the once glamour club from Sydney.

Player budget cuts were seen this season, however under newly appointed Football Manager Rale Basic, the club will be well on its way in the New Year. "My first priority is establishing a powerful first grade squad. In Fairfield alone 133 languages are spoken and that's one aspect we will be looking at in winning more crowds for the next season".

Cross-town rivals Sydney United who for the past several seasons have been fighting for the NSL survival, look set to endure these same problems into next season and beyond.

Currently the club is \$375,000 in debt and running behind \$1,500 per week. By June the debt is expected to be at \$450,000 and to keep United alive for the commencement of the NSL season in October a figure of \$700,000 is needed.

At their recent public forum over \$300,000 of public donations was raised towards Sydney United afloat. Yet such figures have not guaranteed the survival of this club with a board meeting scheduled for last week determining the overall future of this club.

One thing remains true to

United and fellow Sydney-based clubs: Soccer Australia must look after their domestic teams by abandoning their short-term quick-fix solutions and undertake a complete overhaul and address the issues eating away at soccer in this country. When they do this, they may find a nasty surprise.

The final Sydney side explained is the Olympic Sharks. Leading Chairman Nick Politis took a new step this season by re-locating the side to the Sutherland area in order of tapping into a new football market. The move was not to be as successful as proposed as crowds were not evident at the matches.

The side itself pulled off some great results, most notably being the only team, during the season, to have defeated Premiers Perth Glory. The future of Olympic is rumoured to be in the hands of English Premier League side Leeds United who showed a keen interest in buying the club not so long ago.

The Brisbane Strikers enjoyed a terrific season on the pitch reaching the Semi-Finals even though the side was considered to be one of the bottom teams at the start of the season. Strikers General Manager Alan Vessey said the club had a difficult year but its future was now extremely strong.

"The future of the Brisbane Strikers is very strong for a team representing 45,000 kids", Vessey said.

"In terms of the financial aspect of the club it was a struggle as it was always going to be after Soccer Australia removed us last June and then reinstated us 30 days later. It made sponsors and the public very wary of our long-term future."

But the club's performance this year confirms what the board has always believed.

It is essential that Queensland has a national league team and that represents the whole of the State," he said.

Newcastle United were one of the success stories in this year's National League. Good results by the team meant that crowds increased at Energy Australia. Chairman Con Constantine stated that "Passion for football, professionalism and the willingness to pay for it, business sense and more passion for football," are the ingredients to a successful franchise in the National League.

After having a terrific season, Newcastle is in full swing for the following season where Constantine will hope for a

repeat of his side's success. "We want to ensure the base of the support is developed further and added to through a focus on marketing and continually improving the football product. Money will be made available for players next year, provided it is being spent on quality players with the type of characteristics that enhance the team work within the squad".

Finally, Perth Glory CEO Jeff Dennis while happy with the state of the Glory both on and off the field has nevertheless expressed concern about the future.

"There are some challenges there's no question about that, and that is ever reliant on a restructured NSL competition; from Soccer Australia down."

We are waiting for this with baited breath together with challenges we've got regarding our venue; namely improvements to the facilities we play at.

The venue upgrade negotiations are now at the Town of Vincent stage. Those guys have

to discuss the parameters of when it is going to be built, what design we are going to have, who is going to build it and what the management arrangements will be.

"We have also invested quite heavily in our youth development, so while we are having a loss and we do realise that there are some challenges ahead, it's not all doom and gloom."

\* Assistance for this article was also given from Bert van Bedaf (Melbourne), Alan Crisp (Adelaide), Glenn Davis (Brisbane), Richard Kreider (Perth), Con Tagaroulias (Newcastle), Stuart Jones (Sydney) and Daniel Kuziow (Sydney).



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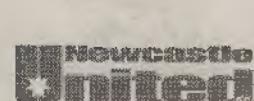
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# National Soccer League

## MAJOR SEMI-FINAL 2ND LEG



Newcastle United



Perth Glory

# Newcastle Record Win, while the Glory advance to the Finals

By Con Tagaroulias

**O**n a balmy Newcastle evening, United was priming itself for its greatest moment in the round ball game. The 1-4 deficit United carried home from the Perth visit, had media pundits referring to the game as a dead rubber.

Inside the Newcastle camp, the players had made a commitment to ensure its adoring public would witness a form reversal on scale that would wipe out the memory of their last trek west.

Perth coach Mich D'Avray had been reminding his players and media alike that the job was only half done and his charges would need to remain focussed for the remaining leg of the contest.

Ian Crook had attempted to remain focussed on what appeared to be an insurmountable hurdle while owner Con Constantine was certain a miracle was in the making.

An expected record crowd materialised demonstrating that not even the great Bobby Charlton was a match for a Newcastle team in the Semi Finals. The 17503 crowd, witnessed a spectacle not normally associated in Australian circles with the round ball game. Numerous entertainers kept the crowd in a mood for a spectacle with acts including singing, fire jugglers, pyrotechnics, Harley riders, dancers and samba drummers, now a permanent fixture at Energy Australia Stadium.

A 1st minute foul by Milan Blagojevic set the tone for the game, which would require a Herculean effort by the United players. The Novocastrian's appeared to be first to every ball with some stand out interceptions from the defensive line led by captain Matthew Bingley ensuring the super strike force of Damian Mori and Bobby Despotovski would have limited opportunities to show their wares.

In the 3rd minute Esala Masi beat two Perth defenders on the right flank sending a low cross across Jason Petkovic's goal. Alex Moreira's run falling inches short of a goal.

In the 4th minute Milan Blagojevic shot wildly over the bar from outside the area after some lead up work led to an Esala Masi lay off.

A minute later Alex Moreira turned on a Joel Griffiths pass forcing the first save by Jason Petkovic from 13 meters. All indicators were pointing to a bust night for the Socceroo custodian.

During the 7th minute a cross by Matt Horsley to the head of all time NSL top scorer Damien Mori was headed over Daniel Beltrame's goal.

A minute later some Alex Moreira brilliance resulted in a pass to Joel Griffiths who beat his marker but not Jason Petkovic.

A Travis Dodd run in the 9th minute led to a pass to Alex Moreira, who was able to travel into the Glory box before delivering a cross to a lunging Joel

box provoking a 17000 plus strong gasp.

A 38th minute foul by Andrew Roberts on Damian Mori, 30 meters from Daniel Beltrame's goal, led to a Bobby Despotovski effort that would best be forgotten.

In the 41st minute of the game Esala Masi received the ball on his left just outside the Glory box. He cut inside Shane Pryce, whose cover in defence was absent, leading to a low struck shot that sent the Novocastrian crowd into raptures. At 2-0, with more than half a football game remaining, United could taste a Grand Final berth.

The relentless Newcastle pressure may have led to further goals, as the Perth defence seemed to be devoid of ideas on stopping the onslaught. A close up by the C7 TV cameras present portrayed a perspiring Mich D'Avray who may have been thinking of the previous piece of finals football where the Glory had secured a 3-goal lead.

Another Alex Moreira run created a further chance. He passed to Esala Masi in a wide position. The resultant cross-missed a rampaging Peter Tsekenis. The attempted clearance fell to Milan Blagojevic who shot over the Perth crossbar.

The second half began cautiously for both teams. The first chance fell to the Minor premiers with a Bobby Despotovski lay off for Damian Mori to strike from 25 meters. The shot was saved by Daniel Beltrame but reminded observers of the potential within the runaway minor premiers squad.

A 51st minute header by Jamie Harnwell from a Gary Faria corner went harmlessly wide of Beltrame's goal.

In the 53rd minute a Daniel Beltrame clearance came within inches of finding Esala Masi before being gathered by Jason Petkovic.

In the 55th minute Alex Moreira released Esala Masi on the edge of the Perth

box. The Fijian ran at the Glory defence before playing a ball in behind Scott Miller for Joel Griffiths. Socceroo Jason Petkovic defused the pass with the anticipation of a quality custodian.

In the 64th minute Peter Tsekenis passed behind a square Perth defence to Joel Griffiths. A challenge by Jason Petkovic released the ball to Andrew Roberts on the left who crossed for Esala Masi to head into the Perth defence.

In the 67th minute Joel Griffiths crossed to an unmarked Alex Moreira on the

far post. Jason Petkovic, who must have been wondering if his defence was going to offer him any protection from the raids coming his way, saved the header.

In the 70th minute Mich D'Avray replaced a tiring Brad Hassell with Alistair Edwards. This lead was followed by Ian Crook who replaced Alex Moreira with Daniel McBreen.

A clever Joel Griffiths pass on 74 minutes placed substitute Daniel McBreen in one on one with Jason Petkovic. The striker failed to find the target.

A defensive error a minute later by United nearly led to a Bobby Despotovski goal. However an alert Daniel Beltrame defused the potential disaster by

challenging solidly for the ball with the Glory captain.

On 76 a Milan Blagojevic set piece on the right found Joel Griffiths, who headed into Jason Petkovic's arms.

A mistake by Jason Petkovic on 82 minutes failed to drop to a United player facing the Glory goal with the Perth custodian stranded on the edge of his box.

Another half chance by Bobby Despotovski was followed by a Milan Blagojevic strike that may have buried Perth.

The Perth Glory team was comprehensively beaten by as good a Newcastle performance as possible. This however was insufficient for a Newcastle based Grand Final.

In the post match press conference a relieved Mich D'Avray was full of praise for his adversaries. He did however suggest that observers of this match and the previous game in Perth had witnessed the best and worst performances of the Glory.

Ian Crook, although disappointed that 2-0 was not quite enough, was happy with his charges performance. He felt that the performance was crucial in



Newcastle's Michael Prentice in full flight against Glory's Jamie Harnwell.

Griffiths.

Fellow Brazilian Edgar Aldrich Junior fouled Alex Moreira in the 15th minute.

The resultant free kick by set piece maestro Milan Blagojevic found Esala Masi in flight. The Fijian international headed to the far post beating Jason Petkovic and beyond a despairing attempted scissor clearance by Jamie Harnwell.

The United ascendancy, bolstered by the partisan home crowd, seemed capable of the promised miracle.

In the 18th minute Brad Maloney and Travis Dodd came together in a tackle that led to the eventual replacement of the Perth Glory midfielder.

In the 31st minute, two former team-mates in Shane Pryce and Andrew Roberts collided in a crunching challenge indicating the passion still evident in an energy-sapping contest.

The first yellow card was shown to Scott Miller for a professional foul on Esala Masi who had beaten David Tarka to get in behind the Glory defence in the 35th minute. The resultant free kick by Milan Blagojevic beat attackers and defenders in the Perth



Aerial challenge in last week's match between Newcastle United and Perth Glory.

setting a platform for the challenges of the coming weeks.

On the omission of Kiwi international Chris Zorich, the United coach felt that the speed of Michael Prentice was needed to combat the lethal antics of Bobby Despotovski and Damian Mori.

Peter Tsekenis's first comment to the press contingent was to point out that this was the first time he felt disappointed after beating Perth. He did feel that this performance would hold his team in good stead for a possible re-encounter.

Bobby Despotovski felt the large crowd away from home was positive for the game and looked forward to the Grand Final. He felt previous disappointments would prepare the team for the coming encounter.

Next week's sudden death Semi Final in Newcastle should see the only remaining soccer crowd record of 18367 for Energy Australia Stadium topple.



Newcastle's Esala Masi tussles with young Glory defender David Tarka.

# National Soccer League

## MAJOR SEMI-FINAL



### Olympic Sharks South Melbourne

## SHARKS BITE TOO MUCH FOR SOUTH'S

By Stuart Jones

The Olympic Sharks exacted revenge from South Melbourne on Sunday just on 12 months after being eliminated by South in the finals last season. A 2-1 victory at Marconi Stadium was enough to send the Sharks into the next round of the finals.

Despite the seemingly close final scoreline the match was emphatically Olympic and afterwards Souths manager Eddie Krnecovic said was not a good time for Souths to have a poor match. He did concede the result was down to Olympic's good play rather than any fault of his team alone.

The match started Olympic's way and the match did not change that pattern. Andy Packer had the first real chance but just failed to connect at the far post from a Lindsay Wilson cross. Two minutes later a Troy Halpin corner was just headed wide by Ante Juric.

In the tenth minute Lindsay Wilson had the ball on the right hand side of the park and beat Panopoulos and De Amicis before crossing the ball over the face of goal. Andy Packer missed with his shot, being tightly marked in the centre of the area, however that left Tom Pondeljak free on the far post and he put the ball across Michael Petkovic's body and into the back of the net.



Kung Fu Fighting, Steve Panopoulos in action against Troy Halpin.

tempo, although the Sydney side were in control as Souths failed to put a shot on target until the 59th minute!

Five minutes before the interval the Sharks doubled their advantage through Jeremy Harris. A Halpin free kick was looking to go out of play on the near post when Jade North managed to drag it back.

Ante Milicic beat Michael Petkovic to the ball and chipped it across the goal for Harris to head onto the bar. The ball fell down over the line before spinning back into play. However the linesman immediately pointed to the centre circle and referee Eddie Lennie awarded the goal.

The opening of the second half was fairly lame as Olympic sat back but Souths were hardly inspirational in their attack. Tom Pondeljak saw a long-range effort go over the bar. Souths tried to respond but neither Paul Trimboli nor Con Boutsianis did much with the chances they were presented.

In the 63rd minute Jade North ran onto a long ball and then passed it through to Lindsay Wilson on the right who chipped it across to Ante Juric but he headed wide.

Ten minutes from the end of the match there were a few flutters in the Sharks defence and Clint Bolton received the ball after it deflected off Jade North.

Over the next few minutes Pondeljak, Halpin and Wilson put their mark over the midfield and left Souths without control of the match. However the opportunities that were created were not turned into goals.

Troy Halpin had a couple of free kicks that went close but the game basically dropped in

On the counter attack Greg Owens miskicked straight to Petkovic when he had a great chance to make the match certain for his side. Five minutes later Owens was nearly presented with the opportunity of the match but Mehmet Durakovic cut the ball out from Wilson's return pass.

Into injury time the game became slightly more dramatic after Souths finally put the ball in the back of the net. Substitute Joe Bacak crossed the ball to fellow sub Robert Liparoti and he had a free header with which he dispatched the ball into the goal.

That was with 90 seconds remaining and right on full time Souths claimed Ante Juric had touched the ball with his hand in the area but their claims were dismissed by referee Lennie and instead he blew fulltime.

Coach Gary Phillips was pleased with the result after the match but thought there were areas of improvement needed; "Over 90 minutes we need to improve. In the first half we laid the foundations and put all the pressure on them. I though our defensive effort was first class and not one of our players did badly, all of them were better than their opposite number on the day."

Eddie Krnecovic acknowledged it was the end of a great wave of success but praised the opposition rather than point the finger at his own side. "I have nothing but praise for my players. We have played something like 13 finals games



Young Sharks defender Paul Kohler challenges Souths captain Paul Trimboli for the ball.

in a row and it has ended today.

It was a bad day to have an off day but Olympic deserved their win, they wanted the game more. It has been a wonderful achievement to play today considering where we were half way through the year."

Paul Trimboli echoed those thoughts; "The Sharks were sharper today, they did not let us settle into the game and credit must go to them for that. They have the talent and ability to go much further in this competition." His opposite captain Clint Bolton was ecstatic to get the result; "It was a sweet victory, they are the finals experts. At training you could tell our guys were up for this match and so it turned out."

Overall Olympic played a full pitch pressure game that stopped Souths in their tracks. Troy

Halpin was outstanding in defence and attack. Lindsay Wilson was strong down the right although his crosses occasionally let him down.

Andrew Durante was outstanding in keeping Con Boutsianis quiet. In the end Souths managed just three shots on goal and that told the story for them. After the match some of the supporters seemed to have issues but it was well controlled by the security around the ground.

Overall however the small crowd (they would have had more than 6300 had it been played closer to town) were satisfied with the result and most will look to next week with great optimism.



Sharks midfielder Troy Halpin battles with Con Boutsianis during last Sunday's Major Semi-Final at Marconi Stadium.



Goal scorer Tommy Pondeljak in possession as Souths midfielder Steve Panopoulos watches on.

# SOUTHS JOE BACAK UNCOVERED



**Joe Bacak:** South Melbourne's Nippy star in action.

**I**t's been a rocky road for the Albert Park Club. South Melbourne had a horror start to the season thanks largely to their interrupted pre-season and injury worries.

At the half-way mark, pundits considered South a spent force, predicting an inevitable slump for the colourful club this season. But what began as a real disaster, has ended as one of the greatest runs to the Finals Series by any NSL Club.

Their revived passion and enthusiasm holds them in good stead in their all important Championship assault. It's a tremendous effort by any standards.

One man who has enjoyed the sweet taste of Grand Final glory is South's linchpin Joe Bacak, who has returned to Australia after overseas stints. His experience and abilities as a playmaker can create havoc up forward.

and discussed South's reversal in form, the fashion labels of Eddie Krnecovic, and Joe's gourmet cuisines...a bowl of Weet-Bix!!

Player's Nickname — Joey  
Interview Location — Loco Express Cafe, Melbourne.

How would you describe yourself as a player?

Fast, direct, aggressive, and hard-worker.

From what age have you been playing this great game?

I've been playing since the age of 5. My father has been my coach all my life. I began my NSL career at the Knights at the age of 15.

I played my first game at 16. After that, I went to Germany on loan, played at Sydney Olympic for 2 years, won a Championship with the Knights in 1995-1996, played in Holland for Vitesse Arnhem, and spent 1 year in Greece before returning home.

be?

Real Madrid, because it's one of the most prestigious clubs in the world to play for. Dinamo Zagreb is also a favourite of mine.



What makes soccer such a popular sport around the world?

I have seen it with my own eyes — people around the world live and breath soccer. Soccer players are idolised in many parts of the world.

Is there a soccer player that you model your game on?

My favourite player of all time is Diego Maradona. It was also great to have met Bobin. Danny Tiatto, not because he is my best mate, but Danny is the best Australian based overseas player and his achievements are highly underrated.

Down and out, South Melbourne's dramatic reversal in form in the second half of the 2001-2002 NSL season have many pundits believing that South has the hunger to succeed and may be the team to beat. Are the boys from Albert Park serious Championship contenders?

Yes!! At the start of the season we had a lot of new players and injury concerns. It takes time to get together a formation that will work. Boutsianis is back, and we have moved forward as a team. We now know what wasn't working, and have worked towards getting it right. Eddie's belief in his players and team has enabled us to gel together and believe in ourselves.

**Danny Tiatto:** Joe's close mate.



**Arnold Schwarzenegger:** Joe Bacak look-a-like?

Bacak is a regular contributor in South's attacking thrusts, and has an uncanny ability to read the passage of play. He is a handy acquisition to have in the pressure-cooker of the Finals.

Earlier in the week I sat down with the creative and classy Joe

**Robert DeNiro:** Bacak admires the famous Godfather star.

What League do you rate as the world's best?

Italian League.

If you could play for any team in the world, which one would it

You have enjoyed a fair degree of success throughout your career — Olyroos Championships, Melbourne Knights Championships 95-96, signed for Greek club Ethnikos Asteras, and played in the UEFA Cup with Vitesse Arnhem.

With so many of Australia's top footballers plying their trade overseas, is the creative talent of Joe Bacak likely to again leave our shores at the seasons end?

There's a possibility. There are a couple of clubs in Austria and Belgium that are interested. But, if I stay on in Australia, I'll definitely be remaining at South Melbourne.

The club has been fantastic, as has the closeness and morale within the team. South Melbourne is run as a professional club, and the facilities are better at South Melbourne than at some European Clubs.

Who would you trade places with for a day?

George Bush, the most powerful man in the world.

What are the qualities of a good coach?

A coach must have personality and be a leader for the player's to look up to. He must have good man-management. He must be direct, and have a touch of arrogance. Eddie helped my career kick off, and I hope to return the favour.

In one word describe Eddie Krnecovic.

The man? Honest  
The coach? Determined

Eddie is considered to be one of the most debonair and fashionably-dressed NSL coaches. Any thoughts on Eddie's stylish range of gear?

He has definitely come back home from his European experience with all the right styles and labels. The clothes suit the man.

Who is the funniest character in the game today?

Steve Iosifidis and Ante Milicic are characters with the one-liners and quick-wit.

Which teammate do you refuse to share a room with?

Vaughan (Coveny) because he is very noisy!

Who is the one person you would like to be stuck in an elevator with?

Anyone other than Vaughan.

If you could travel back in time, where would you go?

To Croatia, and back to when my Dad was younger. I've heard all the crazy stories about the village lifestyle.

If you could choose any actor to play you in a movie, who would it be?

Robert DeNiro, because of the character similarities and because I'm straight-forward. Also, Sol Rosenberg from Jerky Boys.

What is your favorite late-night snack?

Salt & Vinegar chips.

Which teammate could do with a new wardrobe?

Nick Tolios, because we lived together for nine months in Greece and he borrowed all my clothes.

Best hangover cure?

A 'VB'.

Which member of your squad is most likely to be caught dancing on a podium at a nightclub?

Patrick Kisnorbo, because he likes to flaunt it (tends to take his top off).



**By Daniela Raco**

Which member of your squad would top Cleo's most eligible bachelor list?

Patrick Kisnorbo

Where would you rate?

Top two.

It is important to have a balance to be able to play well on the park. What are some of Joe Bacak's off-field pastime?

Golf, movies, and relaxing.

If you could have any supernatural power, what would it be?

To see the future.



**Bacak scoring from the penalty spot.**

## A FINAL WORD FROM JOE

I'm privileged to have achieved a lot in my professional football career. I spent four years in Holland where I played in the UEFA Cup. I've played alongside some of the greatest players in the world. I thank God for my family, because they've given me the opportunity to compete with the world's best.

What gourmet cuisines can you whip up in the kitchen?

A bowl of Weet-Bix!!

Worst haircut in the league?

Nick Tolios' mallet cut.

Which famous person have you been told you look like?

Arnold Schwarzenegger.

If you were invisible what's the first place you would sneak into?

Anna Kournikova's dressing room.

# D'Avray's Defensible Decision pays off

**By Richard Kreider**

*Continued from Front Page.*

"I think it was a new experience for our players to go away from home and play in front of such a big and very noisy crowd," said d'Avray.

"It was a crowd that got right behind their team and when the chants 'Newcastle, Newcastle' went around the ground, the place was really rocking."

"The boys are not used to that and I think it was a new experience for them," said d'Avray who said his current concern is with the injured, especially midfielder Brad Maloney, who has an ankle injury following a heavy 50-50 challenge with one of United's other best players in Travis Dodd.

"Brad's injury is quite bad, Scotty Miller wasn't feeling too good and Bobby Despotovski got a bit of a knock," said d'Avray. "Brad is very sore and the flight back made the ankle really swell up. He has now got to go and see the doctor for x-rays and we'll see how he fares earlier in the week."

Meanwhile, it appears after chatting with many of the players upon their arrival at Perth's domestic airport, they are not the least bothered about meeting United again in a fortnight.

"I think if they play their semi-final like they did in that first-half against us, then we will be meeting them again, for sure."

said Despotovski.

Petkovic however, was more philosophical. "If we are good enough to win the Grand Final, then we are good enough; that's the bottom line. It doesn't matter who we have to play." Coach d'Avray was equally optimistic about the big game which is expected to be a 40,000-plus sell-out with tickets going on sale to members first,



Damian Mori: Perth Glory's hot striker.

# Socceroos to play Holland?

**By Stuart Jones**

**R**eports are emanating from Europe that Australia has been offered a friendly match against the Netherlands to be played in Scotland later in the year.

Dick Advocaat met up with Frank Farina while he was out here recently and there are suggestions that such an option was discussed. Certainly this seems quite a cheap exercise for Soccer Australia as the players won't have to come half way across the world to play the match. However with the ongoing changes at Soccer Australia it seems the board have yet to take up this offer.

The Dutch failed to make the World Cup finals this year but remain

one of the best teams in Europe. The Australians will have not played together since Uruguay as the Confederation Cup qualifiers will see a team of domestic based players chosen due to costs etc.

Perhaps an avoidance of the Italian debacle would go some way to restoring the faith of the average soccer supporter and prove that Soccer Australia really does support the senior national side and its coach, Frank Farina.

There are also suggestions that Soccer Australia has been offered the training facilities of one leading UK club to utilise four times a year during international weekends at virtually no cost to Soccer Australia.

Certainly this would be positive news for Frank Farina as he could get his squad together fairly regularly without great expense to the

governing body.

The players would utilise the best in training techniques and a team spirit could build even outside competition. Also the local coaches in Europe will not be upset about having to release their players for long periods of time.

A few years back Soccer Australia were presented with such suggestions but they sat on the report and did not act on it. Now these possibilities have basically landed in the governing body's lap, hopefully they won't lose out on such opportunities because of internal politics or an inability to make the hard decisions. It would certainly be frustrating for the national coaching staff should Soccer Australia be holding up on a decision on this offer, one that seems to good to refuse.



A match-up between the Socceroos and Holland could be on the cards.

# ZELIC KEEN TO RENEW TIES WITH SOCCEROOS

**By Daniel Kuzlow.**

**N**ed Zelic has revealed his desire to play for the Socceroos again and help Australia qualify for the last great frontier - The World Cup.

Speaking on Channel 7's Sportswatch program, Zelic admitted that his self-imposed exile from the Australian team of the last three years had been disappointing and he would love to make a return.

"I definitely want to make a comeback down the track, I definitely think that this will be age-wise my last opportunity to make it to a World Cup, but just a few things have to be sorted out," Zelic said.

"Obviously I have to also sort my own future out now at the moment which is also up in the air. I'm not thinking too

far down the track but obviously I'd like to come back and play for Australia again.

Zelic also dismissed suggestions that he would only make a return if Farina were no longer involved, saying the two have had contact about him making a comeback.

"Obviously we've had out problems in the past which everyone knows about and I had a few conversations with him after these events, but it's just a case of me feeling it's the right time to make a comeback," he said.

"At the end of the day it's me that makes the decision. I've actually got no big problems with Frank, he disappointed me with the way things turned out with the Brazil series three years ago. But I seriously do think that things can be patched up.

"For me to tell it's the right time to come back. Frank has been on the phone to me after these events took place and basically told me that he wants me to come back and that he's disappointed with the way things turned out and all the rest.

"It's down to me to make this final decision, I definitely do want to play for Australia again, it's just a case of when."

But asked if there was anything he would change if he had his time over, Zelic was categorical in his reply that he has no regrets about any of his actions.

"Walking out, definitely not, I've not regretted that for one moment," he said. "I felt it was the right decision at the time and I've definitely got no regrets with the way I've done things with regards to the

national team.

"Missing out on so much international football and all the rest is disappointing for me, but I made a decision then and I stood by it. Obviously a lot of people thought that I would come back just before the World Cup qualifying games.

"But I stood by my decision and now it's a different point in time and it's going to be a last chance to get to the World Cup for me so it's got me thinking."

One must wonder however if Ned Zelic is merely becoming more patriotic and sympathetic towards his nation's cause because his own domestic career has hit a cross-roads and it is harder for the former enigma to play a full 90 minutes? Only time will tell.



Ned Zelic could pull on the green and gold again.

# Letters to the Editor

## SOCER AUSTRALIA'S GOT IT WRONG AGAIN!

**Dear Sir,**  
I would like to agree with the comment s expressed by Nick Politis on your front page regarding Soccer Australia's scheduling of the elimination final at Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

Like Politis, I would have liked to see the game played at Olympic's home ground; Shark Park. For the entirety of this season the Sharks have played their home matches in Cronulla, generating a support base that is a mixture of long time followers and new converts from the soccer-rich area of the Sutherland Shire. For their part Politis and the Olympic club have tried to promote soccer in this country by trying to tap into a vast market of followers that have often been neglected by the established soccer community.

For this reason the elimination final should take place at Shark Park. The transition of the Sharks moving from the inner west of Sydney to the south of Sydney has proved to be good not only in

terms of crowd numbers but on field performances. Olympic have conceded a very small number of goals at their home ground and as we saw from last week's exhibition against the Melbourne Knights were a formidable attacking threat, crushing their visitors six goals to two.

At this time in the season it is not wise to break from the established traditions (even if they are relatively new). Over the course of the season, they have proved to be a success with both on field and in the bleachers. Soccer Australia must take heed of these events and use them to bring even greater success to what has so far been a good final series.

Philip Watkins  
Cronulla, NSW.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The move of staging the Sharks-South Melbourne clash to Marconi Stadium caused an uproar with all Shark supporters. The initial idea by Olympic this year was to tap into the Sutherland Shire region.

It didn't go the way they wanted it to, however improvement was seen during the last couple of

matches. The recent Elimination Final between the Sharks and Knights saw a number of new supporters at Toyota Park.

The fact that the club has made the Semi-Finals has notched up more new followers to the game. Moving the venue to Marconi has only tarnished any future support for the Sharks which is quite unfortunate, especially for Australian soccer.



Nick Politis: Olympic Sharks Chairman.

## THANK GOD FOR SBS!

**Dear Sir,**  
At last. After months of rumours it has been confirmed that SBS will be showing live matches of the World Cup, plus a 1-hour highlights package each week.

We were all enthralled by the last World Cup where after 68 years of waiting France pulled off the big one by defeating Brazil. We were similarly in suspense wondering why Brazil was the shadow of the team they were at the beginning of the Finals.

Top this day, it is still unclear what exactly happened to the Brazilian team. The point I am making is that none of those emotions and reactions would have been possible without the live and exclusive coverage of SBS.

France '98 proved to be the biggest sporting event both in terms of spectatorship and in the quality of the play. SBS did an absolutely outstanding job showing every aspect of this. With Japan and South Korea, little more than a month away and predicted to be even

more successful than the World Cup of 4 years ago, I am content knowing now that it will receive the coverage such an event warrants and not the minuscule coverage that was intended by Channel 9 with only the last 16 games.

The World Cup is now where it deserves to be—in the hands of the true soccer network and not in those looking at making a fast buck from the world's most popular game.

P. Scholari  
Footscray, VIC.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A World Cup is not the same without SBS. It is simply the channel for soccer fans. Now with SBS claiming the rest of the matches, the coverage of the World Cup will be more detailed, and that thrill of watching the biggest sporting event every four years will be more of a reality in the luxury of your own home—no extra cost.

The other good aspect about this year's World Cup is no longer will all Australian soccer fans wake up at the break of dawn watching a match, being close to Asia, we will be getting LIVE matches at around early to late afternoons.

## THE WONDERFUL GAME OF SOCCER

**Dear Sir,**  
What a great time of year it is for us billion's of football lovers. We have all the finals of football coming up and it should be a fantastic, splendid climax.

The NSL finals should be memorable with some great games to be had in front of some big crowds, this is when passion over flows with the desire to win and claim what is rightfully yours deciding the victor.

The European finals as always

will be exciting and interesting with some glamorous games exploding into lounge rooms and bars all over the world, and to think that all this passion and excitement will only serve as an appetiser for what is to follow is mind blowing.

That's right you guessed it the greatest show on the planet will follow as the main course called "The World Cup of Football." With the greatest artists on the planet to dance their moves for our delight.

"Let the Celebrations Begin."

Paul Bottari

As always this event will overshadow everything in your life for its duration as we will be truly intoxicated and only when it's over and the champions are crowned will we be able to go back to our normal existence with withdrawal pains for the next few months as we come down from the heights of surrender.

"Let the Celebrations Begin."

Paul Bottari

## TERRIFIC NSW YOUTH COVERAGE

**Dear Sir,**

Your recent inclusion of all the results contained within the jurisdiction of the New South Wales Soccer Federation is a very positive step on your newspaper's behalf in promoting the game in that State.

While your coverage of the NSW Premier League was second to none, I think by including those wider elements serves to enhance the reputation of not only your paper, but also increases the exposure of the various levels of soccer, that very often does not normally get covered.

This can only be good in promoting soccer as a genuine first-rate winter sport, not only in

New South Wales but also across the country.

I happen to be involved with a club in the lower division of the NSW State Leagues and I must



say that when I see the results of my team printed in a paper that contains results of the National League and the elite leagues of Europe, it makes me feel a part

of the whole soccer community.

I am sure that I am not alone when I express these ideas. It is clear that your newspaper takes much pride in covering every aspect of the world game from the very top, to the middle of the range. It is all soccer and you appreciate this. Congratulations.

Robert Murratore  
Belmore, NSW.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The new and improved Youth coverage from NSW is the best in the business, cheers for the comments, more detailed information regarding better photos on youth matches will be seen in the paper as of May 14th, stay tuned.

## WORLD CUP 2002 — ABSW'S ROLE?

**Dear Sir,**

The World Cup is fast approaching and I have noticed that you have included the preview of each group and the teams within those groups in your publication.

This is good as a lead-in to the upcoming spectacle. What I wish to know however is this? What role will your newspaper play in bringing the flavours of the World Cup to our loyal readers?

I would very much like to see some idea match reports, but not something that is cut and pasted from the Internet. We all have access to the net and we won't need to buy your newspaper to see these reports.

Your journalists are very well skilled in projecting issues associated with soccer both at a domestic and international level and would no doubt do justice in bringing the World Cup here. I think the idea of a history of the World Cup would also be a good inclusion to put in as a lead-up to the World Cup, as would the idea of a wall chart.

I remain confident however that you will come up



with some fresh ideas for Japan/South Korea 2002. For previous World Cups you have done an excellent job and I am confident that this will be no different this time around.

Steven Day,  
Cumberland Park, SA.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** ABSW will be undertaking a huge role in bringing our loyal readers the best-written coverage of the World Cup. All our readers have been aware of our 2-page a week summary on each group and this week sees a new inclusion on page 25 — Part A of all the stadiums of the World Cup.

We have 8 journalists covering all eight groups alongside professional comments and opinions from the only coach ever to take Australia to a World Cup Rale Rasic, former Socceroo Peter Katholos and we are

in negotiations with Spirit and SBS personality Craig Foster and famous soccer presenter Colin Turner. That and the issue prior to the start of the World Cup will feature a bumper issue focusing on the World Cup.

## WELL DONE BANKSTOWN CITY CUBS!

**Dear Sir,**

I would like to congratulate Bankstown City Cubs on their excellent start to the Super Youth League season.

I recently went to Jensen Park to watch my son play against Bankstown and left very impressed at the friendliness of club officials, the organisation of the games, the well manicured pitch and also the very tasty chevapi.

I hasten to add that it won't be too long before

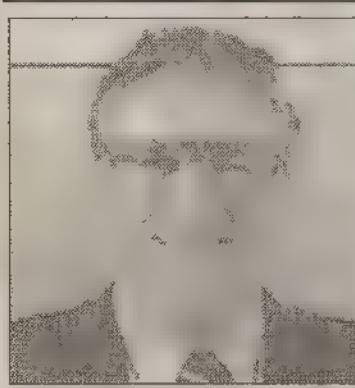


Newcastle United and Bankstown are inducted into the Premier Youth League.

Best regards

Ray Victory  
Youth League parent and fan

# OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

## FAIR FUTURE FOR FORCE

The fortunes of Adelaide City Force took a dramatic quantum leap last week when South Australian property developer Gordon Pickard threw his financial weight behind the States only NSL club.

Pickard, managing director of building empire Fairmont Homes, agreed to back City by injecting a six figure sum over the next two years.

Before the agreement was reached it was widely believed that Pickard intended to mount a takeover bid for the struggling club, but the support option was gratefully accepted by City president Bob D'Ottavi.

"It's great to have Gordon back at Adelaide City. He's been a great supporter of the club and we are delighted to have him involved again," D'Ottavi said.

"It's not just the cash that will benefit



## FESTIVAL CUP PROGRAM

All games at Hindmarsh Stadium

**August 3:** Vasco da Gama v Shandong; Rangers v Juventus.

**August 4:** Australia v Ajax; Bayern v Newcastle

**August 5:** Juventus v Shandong; Rangers v Vasco da Gama

**August 6:** Newcastle v Ajax; Australia v Bayern

**August 7:** Rangers v Shandong; Juventus v Vasco da Gama

**August 8:** Bayern v Ajax; Australia v Newcastle

**August 10:** Semi-finals. August 11: Final and Third Place Play-off.

**Bob D'Ottavi:** The Adelaide Force Chairman is happy to have South Australian Property Owner Gordon Pickard at the club.

the club. Gordon's involvement will help bring in other sponsors and I think that would put Adelaide City in a very strong position for next season and beyond."

Pickard, a generous backer of SA sporting clubs and charities, was previously a major sponsor of Adelaide City

He maintained that support for 24 years, but ceased his sponsorship association with City in 1999, a year after a proposed takeover attempt of the club fell at the final hurdle.

Fairmont Homes finance director and spokesman Brett Graham believes Pickard would be interested in another privatisation bid should D'Ottavi decide to step down as president.

"I think everybody appreciates what Bob D'Ottavi has done to keep the club going," Graham said.

"But, should he ever think about relinquishing his post, then, maybe in a year, once we have all the business plans in place, Gordon might consider it."

Meanwhile, Adelaide City has delayed

## KOSTA COMEBACK

He's multi-lingual, extensively travelled, vastly experienced and just 23



**Kosta Salapasis:** The former Young Socceroo is in scintillating form for Adelaide Olympic.



# Queensland Lions Soccer Club

Phone: (07) 3271 5636 • Fax: (07) 3271 3804

[www.qldlions.com](http://www.qldlions.com)

133 Pine Rd, RICHLANDS QLD 4077



## Premier League Review By Glenn Davis

# QUEENSLAND PREMIER LEAGUE IN FULL SWING

## QUEENSLAND WRAP-UP

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane City coach Frank Pimblett has threatened mass changes after an embarrassing 6-nil thrashing by premier league leaders Queensland Lions in their top of the table derby battle at Lions Stadium on Sunday.

Although both sides had players in their squad backing up after the Anzac Day interstate clash with New South Wales, Queensland Lions had the match in their keeping with four goals in the opening 18 minutes.

Pimblett offered no excuses for Brisbane City's biggest defeat in years but refused to blame the wet conditions for the loss.

"It's a shattering blow and totally unacceptable," Pimblett said.

"I'm not looking for any excuses and we never got close."

"They had too much room and you've got to question the attitude from some of our players," he said.

Pimblett said he would definitely make changes for Brisbane City's next match.

"I don't usually go for the panic button but there'll be changes for sure," he said.

"It's pretty depressing the way they just destroyed us," he said.

"It was a big game played between two old rivals and was a top of the table battle but we didn't perform and the players showed no character or pride."

Lions' Nathan Carlos opened the scoring after only two minutes before striker Reece Tollenaere banged in a hat-trick in the 7th, 10th and 18th minutes to give the home side a 4-nil lead at the interval.

The half-time break did nothing for the visitors with Lions taking just three minutes after the resumption to race to a 5 nil lead before Des Hughes chimed in with the sixth goal in the 55th minute. Lions' coach Miron Bleiberg believed the result was further evidence the club deserved to be in the national league next season.

At Jack Spears Park, Ipswich Knights' picked up a valuable three pointer away from home with a 2-nil win over Taringa Rovers.

Billies as the battle of the brothers between rival coaches Andy and John Ogden, Ipswich led 1-nil at half time after a 13th minute goal from midfielder Stu Drinkel who volleyed home against the run of play.

Substitute Matt Hilli sealed the game in the 70th minute with an unbelievable free kick from 30 metres, which curled around the wall and bent half the width of the goal past Taringa keeper Clint Del Santo. Taringa had several chances to score with defender Randal

Banks smashing a 25 metre shot late in the game while Craig Collins clapped over the cross in the first half.

Coach Andy Ogden believed Ipswich's victory, which keeps it in sixth place, was well overdue.

"We needed the win badly," Ogden said.

"We've only lost one game but we've had three two-all draws at home."

"Draws in this competition can crush you."

Mr Gravatt finally registered its first win of the season with a comprehensive 3-1 win over Rochedale Rovers.

After a scoreless first half Mt Gravatt striker Russell Woodruffe continued his good goal scoring form with a scorpion shot in the 60th minute to break the deadlock.

Woodruffe scored a double in his premier league debut in Mt Gravatt's 2-all draw with Toowoomba the previous round.

However, Mr Gravatt's lead was short-lived with Rochedale snatching the equaliser within a minute from Tony Limbrick.

Mr Gravatt produced the game's third goal in a five-minute period when midfielder Matt Schneider, who was only recently signed from Brisbane City, headed home a free kick to put the Hawks back in front.

A freakish goal direct from a corner from Adam Bullpit sealed the match for Mt Gravatt midway through the second half.

Coach Jarrod Austin was delighted his side finally had won its first match and rated Schneider as the man of the match.

"He's got a ton of skill and I only signed him last week from Brisbane City. I've no doubt he should have been a regular in their firsts," Austin said.

"It's a huge relief to win our first game and the boys gave 100 per cent."

Easts moved to eight points on the table on the back of a Shane Coffey volley midway through the opening half which went through the hands of The Gap keeper.

"I'm going to play The Gap on their ground to get them to play and they'll pick up a lot of points off teams there this year," Easts coach Robbie Barraclough said.

"Robbie (Barraclough) had a great game and I'm expecting to get a call from the New Zealand national coach about him."

"He played in the New Zealand Olympic squad and he's very good."

"If the New Zealanders don't ring me I'll e-mail them or get in contact somehow to let them know just how great he's going," the former Socceroo said.

In other results North Star caused an upset downing Wynnum 2 nil while Gold Coast downed Toowoomba 3-1.

### PREMIER LEAGUE Round 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Queensland Lions	5	5	0	0	13	2	15
Brisbane City	5	4	0	1	11	3	13
Wynnum	6	4	2	0	10	8	12
Gold Coast City	6	3	1	2	15	7	11
North Star	6	3	2	1	9	8	10
IPSW Knights	6	2	1	3	15	8	9
Eastern Suburbs	6	2	2	2	9	11	8
Mt Gravatt	6	1	3	2	6	17	5
Taringa Rovers	6	1	4	1	5	10	4
Rochedale Rovers	6	0	3	3	8	13	3
T'wmbo Raiders	6	0	3	3	7	12	3
The Gap	6	0	4	2	4	14	2
<b>ROUND 6 RESULTS</b>							
Gold Coast City	3	T'wmbo Raiders	...	1			
Mt Gravatt	3	Rochedale Rovers	1				
North Star	2	Wynnum	0				
Taringa Rovers	0	IPSW Knights	2				
The Gap	0	Eastern Suburbs	1				
Queensland Lions v Brisbane City (no result)							

### FIRST DIVISION Round 7

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Souths Utd	8	0	0	0	6	33	22
Pine Rivers Utd	8	6	1	0	6	5	19
Bundaberg Aces	8	6	1	0	0	9	19
Maroochydore	8	5	1	0	0	24	1
Indooroopilly	8	3	2	0	0	17	12
Rochedale Rovers	8	4	4	0	0	16	12
Redlands Utd	8	3	2	0	0	11	12
Capalaba Qld	8	2	2	0	0	19	10
Carindale	8	2	2	0	0	19	15
Newmarket	8	3	5	0	0	11	9
Avalon Creek	8	2	4	0	0	8	8
Sacks Creek	8	0	6	0	0	5	2
Brisbane Olympic Utd	8	0	6	0	2	10	2
Grange Thistle	8	0	7	0	0	15	1

\*DUE TO ABSW RELOCATION DIVISION  
ONE RESULTS WERE UNAVAILABLE AT THE  
TIME OF GOING TO PRINT

## QUEENSLANDERS REIGN SUPREME OVER THE BLUES

By Glenn Davis

Coach Danny Wright celebrated his first win in charge of the Queensland state side with a thrilling 3-2 win over New South Wales in their interstate clash at Perry Park on Anzac Day.

A first half penalty from Maroons captain Dimitri Theocaridis and two well-taken second half chances from substitute Matt Olley avenged Queensland's recent 2-nil loss to Victoria at Bob Jane Stadium.

Queensland led New South Wales 1-nil at the break after Theocaridis hammered home a 15th minute penalty awarded after Taringa Rovers exciting striker Darryl Hatherley was fouled in the box.

Queensland were forced to reshuffle the defence during the break after Theocaridis injured an ankle in strong challenge minutes before the interval and was replaced by Steve Dawe.

Olley, a former NSW under 21 representative, got the first of his double to put the Maroons ahead 2-nil in the 64th minute after tireless midfielder Craig Collins delivered a superb ball for the Queensland Lions striker to score with his second touch of the game.

With their backs to the wall, New South Wales fought back strongly to peg back Queensland's lead to 2-1 in the 71st minute with a scrambling goal from another substitute Robbie Angievski from Blacktown City Lions.

However, Queensland recovered quickly from the setback to lead 3-1 within five minutes when Olley finished off a strong movement, which started deep in its own territory.

New South Wales, which also lost last year's challenge to the Maroons, struck

back to send the match into a thrilling the last five minutes when Fairfield Bulls striker Mark Hoenselaars scored the visitors second.

Wright was delighted with Queensland's performance and signalled out goalkeeper Jason Lucas as one of the best on the park after making several match winning saves.

"It was an open game with a lot of spirit," Wright said.



Jimmy Bakis (left) and Matt Bell fight it out in the recent NSW vs Queensland match.

"New South Wales were very skilful and physical and their players were a lot stronger and bigger than us."

"I thought Jason Lucas had an outstanding game and Craig Collins was tremendous in midfield."

"It was a typical interstate game with plenty of rivalry and passion from both sides."

Wright, who watched from the sidelines as Queensland beat New South Wales 2-1 last year, believed the Blues fielded a much stronger outfit this year.

Queensland will now play South Australia in its next interstate clash on June 10.

### WEEKEND FIRST GRADE FIXTURES

#### ◆ ROUND 7 ◆

Friday 3rd May

Wynnum v Mt Gravatt

7.30pm

Saturday 4th May

T'wmbo Raiders v Queensland Lions

7.00pm

Rochedale Rovers v Gold Coast City

7.00pm

Brisbane City v The Gap

7.00pm

Sunday 5th May

IPSW Knights v North Star

3.00pm

# NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

[www.nswpremierleague.com](http://www.nswpremierleague.com)



## FEATURE MATCH

### Parramatta Eagles



v



### Blacktown City Demons

### GRAND FINAL

**W**hat a match up this game will be. The best side in the competition all season versus one of the form sides of the competition. With two of the most talented squads in the league squaring off this game is sure to be a cracker.

Parramatta are entitled to be the match day favourites as they attempt to win their first Grand Final since 1997. They have had a very relaxed build-up to the season decider preferring to give some key personnel a good rest before the all-important clash with Blacktown City.

Coach Tam Finlayson decided against playing a friendly match last weekend, preferring to schedule some extra training and a pool session. According to Finlayson the side is fighting fit and ready to go.

"Our build-up has been excellent" said Finlayson "and I can't fault any of the boys. Morale is high and they are all focused on next Sunday's match."

Having played just one game in the past four weeks the Eagles are chock full of confidence. They have not been beaten since February 17th when the Demons knocked them over 2-1 amassing an eight game winning streak culminating in the Grand Final. Being the final game in charge for Tam Finlayson, there would be no better send off than winning this week to complete the Premiership/Championship double.

"We have no major injury problems" continued Finlayson. "The extra week off has allowed Geoff Dwyer time to get over the flu, so we are

at full strength. The only question mark is over Daniel Kukucka but apart from that there will be no excuses from us this week."

Blacktown City swept aside arch rivals Bonnyrigg in emphatic style last week, handing out a 5-1 drubbing at The Serbian Centre. With striker David Reid enjoying an evening out, the Demons showed enough to suggest they have the cattle to take another Grand Final. After missing the Preliminary Final with suspension, Jimmy Nikas and Damien Foxe return to strengthen a team that looks to have no obvious weaknesses.

Naoki Imaya should be fit from an arm injury while Patrick Gatt should be okay after suffering some mild concussion. Kain Rastall and John Crawley will both be given a light week in a bid to have them recover from slight muscle strains. "We have so many talented players in form right now its going to be very hard to set the side, but that is definitely a positive thing" said Brown. "We'll see how the boys go this week before we make our mind up."

"Parramatta are going to be very very tough" said coach Brian Brown after the Bonnyrigg game.

"They won the league and beat Bonnyrigg in the Major Semi-Final and they are entitled to be the red hot favourites for what they have achieved. But we are confident and I believe we have the team to pull off an upset."



## PREMIER LEAGUE

### FINALS

### WEEK FOUR

### GRAND FINAL:

FIRST GRADE:

### Parramatta Eagles

v  
**Blacktown City Demons**  
SUNDAY 5TH MAY  
5PM  
MARCONI STADIUM (FAIRFIELD)



### Leichhardt Tigers v Central Coast

SUNDAY 5TH MAY  
2.30PM  
MARCONI STADIUM (FAIRFIELD)

UNDER 19:



The *Cafe La Scala* Player of the Week after Week Three Finals of the NSW Premier League is:



**Dane Hokin**  
Blacktown City



## Inside ... Inside ...

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# NSW Premier League

## MEET THE GRAND FINAL PLAYERS

**Jason Holmes** — Former youth international goalkeeper who has been in outstanding form this season. Has kept a clean sheet 10 times this season and as not had a goal scored against him since March 24th!

**Geoff Dwyer** — Has been troubled by the flu in recent weeks but appears he is back to full fitness. Can play either in defence or midfield Dwyer might well be given a marking assignment on David Reid.

**Malcolm Meilak** — With Glenn Sprod, Meilak is the heart and soul of the Eagles engine room. Likely to play in an attacking role just behind the strikers where he can use his great footwork to knock a few balls for Bakis and Cummins to charge onto.

**Mark Reveley** — A veteran defender, Reveley has been one of the Eagles most consistent players all season. Strong in the air he is always dangerous in the penalty box when he comes forward for corners or set pieces.

**Mirko Jurilj** — A former National League player with Sydney United, Jurilj will be the one wearing the white boots marshalling the Eagles defence. A sweeper in the class of Milan Ivanovic, he never seems to get flustered and is always Mr Dependable.

**Mauricio Islas** — Dependable midfielder who runs all day. Another Parramatta player capable of pushing forward and causing a few headaches.

**Daniel Kukucka** — Has had some injury problems this season and if fit he could provide some impact off the bench.

**Anthony Mondello** — Talented young striker with an eye for goal. Is currently playing second fiddle to Cummins and Bakis but off the bench he is capable of bobbing up and scoring goals.

**Anthony Mittiga** — The quiet achiever of the Eagles lineup. A no frills type player who is strong and steady, never giving an inch.

**Jim Bakis** — A former Sydney Olympic junior, Bakis is having the best season of his short career. The focal point of the side on the forward line he has scored 15 goals so far this season and keen to pick up another couple this week.

**Glenn Sprod** — Likely to be given the job on Kain Rastall, in a holding role, but is more than capable to providing the spark in the midfield when required. Former National League player with the Breakers with tons of experience.

**Paul O'Grady** — With Mark Reveley they form two pillars of strength at the back for Parramatta. Has had a few years with the Wolves in the National League and is another who is dangerous in the penalty box when he pushes forward for corners and set pieces.

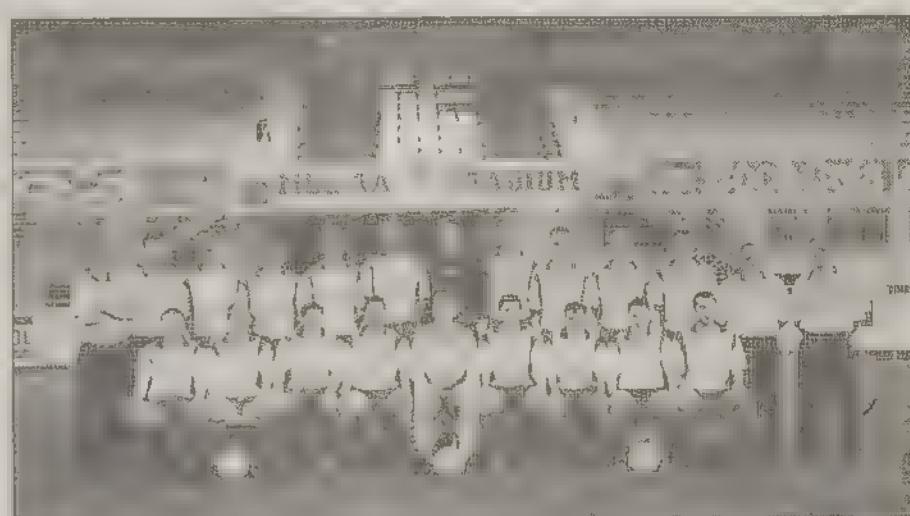
**Stephen Chipp** — Might be called upon by coach Tam Finlayson off the bench. A useful utility player in the Mauricio Islas mould.

## Parramatta Eagles

**Ben Delicata** — The smallest player on the park with the biggest heart. Delicata will occupy the right hand flank for the Eagles where he is expected to get in behind the opponents defence and put in a few crosses for the likes of Bakis and Cummins to run onto.

**Geoffrey Howarth** — Former Belconnen and Canberra Cosmos midfielder, he has been in and out of the Eagle starting eleven through the season. Can play either as a striker or midfielder but best suited wide on the flanks.

**Daniel Cummins** — His speed will keep his markers on their toes and if he is left alone for too long he'll cause a hell of a lot of problems. Capable of scoring multiple goals and his combination with Jimmy Bakis will go a long way to deciding the outcome of this game.

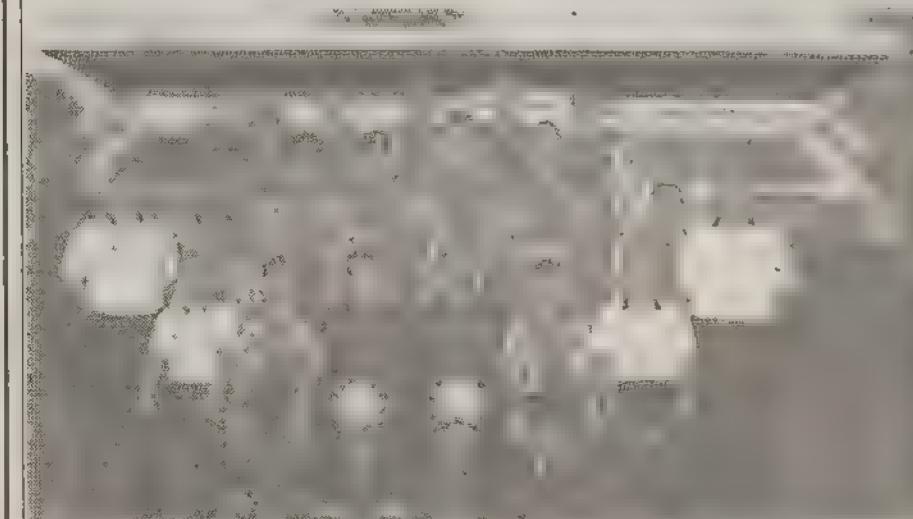


Standing from left to right: Tam Finlayson-Head Coach, Louis Shidlak-Physiotherapist, Joel Morgan, Malcolm Meilak, Steven Chipp, Mark Reveley, Liam Curran, Paul O'Grady, Mirko Jurilj, Geoff Dwyer, Daniel Kokucka, George Ellul-Manager, John Calleja Coach. Sitting left to right: Daniel Cummings, Glenn Sprod, Anthony Mittiga, Mauricio Islas, Jason Holmes, Geoff Howarth, Ben Delicata, Jim Bakis, Anthony Mondello.

**John Crawley** — State representative goalkeeper who had an absolute blinder against Bonnyrigg last week. Strong in the air and not frightened to come out and protect his area when required. He'll be a tough nut to crack for Parramatta.

**Dane Hokin** — Former Central Coast defender who has really matured this season into an outstanding talent. Strong in the air he'll be given the marking assignment on Jimmy Bakis.

*Below: The record breaking Demons are appearing in their fifth consecutive Grand Final.*



Rear L-R: Luciano Berbis, David Reid, Mark Racker (has since left), Paul Yates, Graeme O'Donnell.

Third Row L-R: Darren Iocca (has since left), Patrick Gatt, Naoki Imaya, Steve Riches, Damien Foxe.

Second Row L-R: Brian Brown (coach), Chad Lewis, Paul Dee, Damon Langan, Zac Donev, Peter Sermanni, Jim Nikas, Jimmy Greenall (Physio).

Front Row L-R: Tom McMorrow (ass. coach), Ben Willard, James Wilkinson, John Crawley, Kain Rastall, Gary Lewis (mgr).

Not in photo: Dane Hokin, Mike Smith, Roger Galayini.

## Blacktown City Demons

soul of the Demons defence.

**Ben Willard** — Either as a sweeper or defensive midfielder little Benny is always amongst the Demons best. A former Sydney Olympic and Macarthur Rams player Willard has attracted some interest from NSL clubs after a terrific season.

**Peter Sermanni** — A former Liverpool junior in England, Sermanni will be given a marking assignment in front of the back three. Easily adaptable he doesn't mind pushing forward when the situation arises.

**Steven Riches** — Former Leyton Orient midfielder, he might well find himself back on the bench with the return of Jimmy Nikas. Can also play as stopper where he is given a roving commission to push down the flanks and create some havoc out wide.

**Jimmy Nikas** — Missed last weeks game with suspension but he is one of the Demons trump cards. Having won two Gold Medals is testament to the fact he is a class act on the left side of the midfield.

**Paul Dee** — A very experienced campaigner, Dee will handle duties on the right side of midfield where he will clash with Meilak and Mittiga.

**Kain Rastall** — Provides the spark in the Demons engine room. Left alone he can turn a game off his boot and he is one for the Eagles to watch closely.

**Naoki Imaya** — A very talented former J-League and Canberra Cosmos player. Copped a bad knock on the arm last week and will be fighting to be fit to start this week.

**Zlatko Donev** — Will partner David Reid upfront in a twin pronged forward set up. A former Green Gully striker, he holds the ball up well and is the perfect foil for his taller partner.

**David Reid** — Converted from a midfielder to a striker with terrific results this year by Brian Brown. Strong in the air he is always a danger in and around the penalty box.

**Patrick Gatt** — Likely defender who suffered a bad knock last week leaving him with a concussion. A no nonsense type who can do an excellent job at stopper.

**Damon Langan** — On the comeback trail from injury, Langers is expected to sit on the bench and could come into the defence if required. A former club captain he is as tough as nails and almost impossible to beat one on one.

**Luciano Berbis** — Another youngster from the Demons junior ranks who looks set for a big future. Came on last week as a substitute for Patrick Gatt and acquitted himself well.

**Chad Lewis** — A young attacking midfielder with a flair for goal.

**Mike Smith** — Signed from Northern Spirit, this rock solid player may miss the Grand Final due to injury.

**Roger Galayini** — A versatile midfielder / striker is another product of the famed Blacktown City Youth Academy and scored Blacktown's fifth goal last Sunday.

# NSW Premier League

## PRELIMINARY FINAL



### Bonnyrigg WE Blacktown City

By Greg Stock

**B**lacktown City ended the championship campaign of Bonnyrigg in emphatic style on Sunday evening, dishing out a 5-1 thrashing at the Serbian Centre.

With striker David Reid leading from the front with two goals, the Demons controlled the game for most of the match, booking themselves a showdown with Parramatta Eagles in next week's Grand Final.

Right from the opening whistle the game was worthy of a Preliminary Final. Bonnyrigg seized control of the opening fifteen minutes and camped themselves in their opponents half. Jimmy Aschner had two strikes saved and one could have been forgiven for wondering just how much the White Eagles would win by. But as the game rolled on, Blacktown started to take control as their midfield started to find their legs.

In the 20th minute they went 1-0 up. David Reid literally created something out of nothing when he slid between two defenders on the edge of the box to steer a right foot shot wide of goalkeeper Ivan Necevski.

Once he had his first goal, Reid



The Demons' Kain Rastall does battle with Sasha Utješenovic.

1  
5

was unstoppable. He continually punched holes in Bonnyriggs defence with his sheer height and physical presence no match for his lightweight opponent in Sasa Utješenovic. He turned provider for partner Zlatko Donev three minutes after the break when he sent a well weighted cross into the back post for Donev to smash home setting up a 2-0 scoreline, before he layed a ball off for defender Dane Hokin to slam home a shot from a corner.

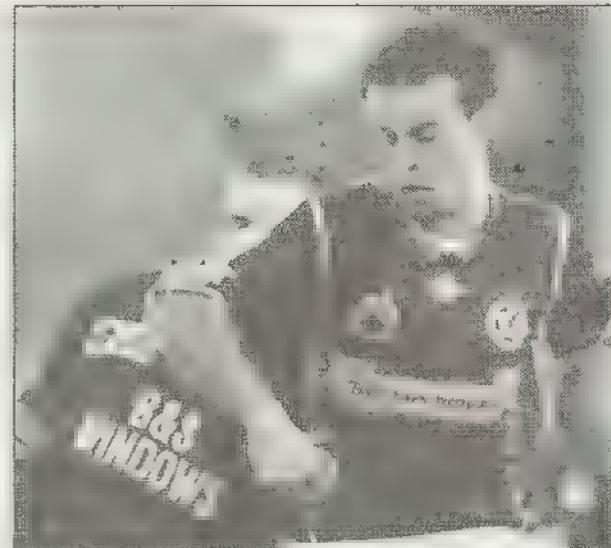
When Reid was finally given a well deserved rest by coach Brian Brown eleven minutes before the end, the scoreline read 4-0, with Reid having a hand in all four goals.

He worked a brilliant one two with Donev in the 78th to score his second before given a standing ovation from the Demons' faithful as he trudged from the field. Substitute Roger Galayini picked up the fifth goal, before Johnny Ghisso added a late reply for the homeside.

While Blacktown were quite clearly the dominate side, Bonnyrigg did have their moments. Unable to score in the first fifteen minutes they were denied by some smart goalkeeping from John Crawley.

With striker Jimmy Aschner well held by Dane Hokin they lacked punch up front and struggled to make things happen in the front third. But full credit to Blacktown

They thoroughly deserve their win and on form alone showed enough to say they will be hard to beat next week.



Double scorer David Reid shrugs off a Bonnyrigg challenge.

**Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Ghisso 89')**  
**Blacktown City 5 (Reid 20' 78' Donev 48' Hokin 70' Galayini 88')**

at The Serbian Centre

**BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES:** Ivan Necevski, Devrim Huseyin, Sasha Utješenovic, Bobby Dragaš, Michael West, John Kyralzopoulos (Johnny Ghisso 63'), Shane Knight, David Harding, Chris Bradley (Michael Hawrysiuk 51'), Jimmy Aschner (Todd MacRae 75'), Robbie Gomez; Coach: Greg Woodhouse.

**BLACKTOWN CITY:** John Crawley, Dane Hokin, Peter Sermanni, Ben Willard, Paul Dee, Kain Rastall, Naki Iriyama (Chad Lewis 81'), Zlatko Donev, Steven Riches, David Reid (Roger Galayini 79'), Patrick Gatt (Luciano Berbis 60'); Coach: Brian Brown.

Cautions: Riches (bc) 9' Dragaš (bwe) 29'

Referee: S. Pryzdacz  
Assistants: R. Kofer, M. Jonsson  
Fourth Official: C. Pearce

## UNDER 19 GRAND FINAL PREVIEW



### Leichhardt Tigers



### Central Coast

By Paul Goodwin

**T**he 2001-02 Grand Final features two sides that have fought out the title in dogged style all season and whose coaches appear to share a great deal of mutual respect.

John McLaughtry's Central Coast is a side that won the Premiership in fine style despite releasing many of its number to first grade during the season.

Games between these sides have always been keenly contested and it has become apparent over the years that both John Romeo from Leichhardt and McLaughtry will treat one another with caution, but not fear, as they have done battle on many previous occasions and shared a drink after the battle has been won and lost.

This time should be no different. The Major semi final between the sides had to go to the Golden Goal to be settled after Leichhardt had taken their foot off the pedal once they had gone ahead the first time and then the second.

Leichhardt are a smooth side with some quality

creative players, good workers and schemers and very solid defence.

Men to watch in the Tigers' side are striker Andrew Falas, the scorer of four goals in his last two outings and Rocky Nestoccia who strikes alongside him. Capable defender Daniel Cunningham and Kelvin Foster marshall the defence very well.

Both sides are blessed with first rate keepers, Murray Nelson in the Leichhardt goal playing brilliantly on many occasions this season, while Coasters' custodian, Matt Collits, has been a first grade player earlier this season and must be considered unlucky not to retain his senior shirt.

If Josh Mitchell, who had a quiet game against Fairfield, fires as he did in the most recent meeting between these two sides, then Coasters could again make life very difficult for John Romeo's men.

Peter Haynes needs to get some form again too and with Ricky Metcalfe and Marc Falzon in good touch at present it does look like a game that could easily go either way.

In any event it is a great curtain raiser to the First Grade contest.

## UNDER 19 PRELIMINARY FINAL



### Central Coast Fairfield Bulls

By Paul Goodwin'

**T**he preliminary final in Under 19s was a gripping affair and one that the Fairfield side looked capable of winning, based on a strong first half performance.

They troubled Central Coast keeper Matt Collits on many occasion, but he showed great agility and alertness not to mention considerable bravery to race off his line to deny the impressive Daniel Borg, whose speed posed a great threat to the Coasters' defence.

Adam Samuel was also in the thick of things for The Bulls and was a thorn in the side of the Coasters for much of the first half.

At the other end the commanding presence of Ali Akbal in the Fairfield goal allowed Craig Sharpley and his men the opportunity to venture forward repeatedly and pose a threat.

Central Coast were restricted to a few long range efforts from Daniel Surridge, while goal line clearances by Sharpley and Anthony Cosamento were to deny the Coasters' men

chances to hit the lead earlier in the game.

Cosamento was also responsible for a slashing shot after a burst upfield in the 34th minute and among a hard working Fairfield side he stood out alongside Borg, Phil Badolato and the keeper Akbal.

The Coasties looked a shade more determined after the break and did look like making an impression in the first half hour of the second period, but began to fade a little and Fairfield again began to look a danger.

Then talented youngster Ricky Metcalfe, who has figured in some recent first grade games for his club, took it upon himself to stride from inside his own half and through the heart of the Fairfield defence.

Perhaps expecting a pass or a tackle from a fellow player, to a man the Bulls' men stood off and this allowed Metcalfe to waltz his way towards the goal and drive low past the hopelessly unprotected keeper.

This 86th minute goal proved to be the winner

# NSW Premier League

## ALL THE PREVIOUS WINNERS

### NSW CLUB CHAMPIONS

1966	Hakoah Eastern Suburbs
1967	South Sydney Croatia
1968	SFC Prague
1969	St. George Budapest
1970	Hakoah Eastern Suburbs
1971	Hakoah Eastern Suburbs
1972	Hakoah Eastern Suburbs
1973	Hakoah Eastern Suburbs
1974	Hakoah Eastern Suburbs
1975	St. George Budapest
1976	St. George Budapest
1977	Apia Leichhardt
1978	Croatia Sydney
1979	Sutherland Shire
1980	Melita Eagles
1981	Croatia Sydney
1982	SFC Prague
1983	Inter Monaro
1984	Sydney Olympic
1985	St. George
1986	Budapest
1987	Croatia Sydney
1988	Rockdale Linden
1989	Melita Eagles
1990	Sutherland Shire
1991	W'gong Macedonia
1992	Blacktown City
1993	Avala
1994	Bankstown City
1995	Lions
1996	Warringah
1997	Dolphins
1998	Parramatta Eagles
1999	Blacktown City
2000	Blacktown City
2000-01	Blacktown City
2001-02	Parramatta Eagles

### NSW GRAND FINAL CHAMPIONS

1957	Auburn	1978	Sutherland Shire
1958	C'bury Marrickville	1979	Inter Monaro
1959	SFC Prague	1980	Sydney Olympic
1960	C'bury Marrickville	1981	St. George
1961	Hakoah Eastern	1982	Budapest
1962	Suburbs	1983	Croatia Sydney
1963	South Coast Utd	1984	Croatia Sydney
1964	Apia Leichhardt	1985	Rockdale Linden
1965	Apia Leichhardt	1986	Melita Eagles
1966	Hakoah Eastern	1987	Sutherland Shire
1967	Suburbs	1988	Wollongong City
1968	St. George	1989	Melita Eagles
1969	Budapest	1990	Melita Eagles
1970	Hakoah Eastern	1991	W'gong Macedonia
1971	Suburbs	1992	Blacktown City
1972	Apia Leichhardt	1993	Avala
1973	St. George	1994	Bankstown City
1974	Budapest	1995	Lions
1975	Marconi Fairfield	1996	Warringah
1976	Marconi Fairfield	1997	Dolphins
1977	St. George	1998	Parramatta Eagles
	Budapest	1999	Blacktown City
	Apia Leichhardt	2000	Blacktown City
	Croatia Sydney	2000-01	Blacktown City
		2001-02	Budapest

### NSW PREMIERS

1957	C'bury Marrickville	1978	Croatia Sydney
1958	Connial	1979	Croatia Sydney
1959	SFC Prague	1980	Melita Eagles
1960	SFC Prague	1981	St. George
1961	SFC Prague	1982	Budapest
1962	St. George	1983	Croatia Sydney
1963	Budapest	1984	Melita Eagles
1964	Apia Leichhardt	1985	C'bury Marrickville
1965	South Coast	1986	Melita Eagles
1966	Apia Leichhardt	1987	Wollongong City
1967	Suburbs	1988	Blacktown City
1968	Hakoah Eastern	1989	Melita Eagles
1969	South Coast	1990	W'gong Macedonia
1970	Hakoah Eastern	1991	Sutherland Sharks
1971	Suburbs	1992	Avala
1972	Hakoah Eastern	1993	Blacktown City
1973	Suburbs	1994	Lions
1974	Budapest	1995	Warringah
1975	Apia Leichhardt	1996	Dolphins
1976	Suburbs	1997	Parramatta Eagles
1977	St. George	1998	Bonnyrigg WE
	Budapest	1999	Bonnyrigg WE
	Apia Leichhardt	2000	Blacktown City
	Suburbs	2000-01	Blacktown City
	St. George	2001-02	Budapest
	Croatia Sydney		Parramatta Eagles

### SCOREBOARD

FINALS WEEK 3

## PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

### PRELIMINARY FINAL

**BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES .1**  
*(J. Ghiso 93')*      **BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS . . . . 5**  
*(D. Reid 22/75'; N. Imaya 49'; D. Hokin 70'; R. Galayini 89')*

### UNDER 19

#### PRELIMINARY FINAL

**CENTRAL COAST COASTIES . . . . 1**      **FAIRFIELD BULLS . . . . . 0**

### FINAL STANDINGS

#### FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	22	17	1	4	61	23	52
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	22	15	2	5	59	21	47
Blacktown City Demons	22	13	5	4	51	26	44
Leichhardt Tigers	22	12	5	5	40	29	41
Belconnen Blue Devils	22	12	4	6	44	31	40
Fairfield Bulls	22	12	4	6	50	43	40
Bankstown City Lions	22	10	5	7	51	48	35
Central Coast Coasties	22	4	6	12	21	41	18
Canterbury Marrickville	22	5	3	14	25	49	18
St George Saints	22	4	5	13	27	52	17
Pennith Panthers	22	1	8	13	24	45	11
Sutherland Sharks	22	1	4	17	21	66	6*

(\*1 point deducted)

### UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central Coast Coasties	22	15	3	4	59	18	48
Leichhardt Tigers	22	15	3	4	50	18	48
Parramatta Eagles	22	13	5	4	44	28	44
Blacktown City Demons	22	14	1	7	60	29	43
Fairfield Bulls	22	10	4	8	45	38	34
Belconnen Blue Devils	22	9	4	9	48	49	31
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	22	4	4	10	40	43	28
Pennith Panthers	22	4	4	10	35	39	28
Canterbury Marrickville	22	6	5	11	23	36	23
St George Saints	22	6	4	12	28	47	22
Bankstown City Lions	22	3	2	17	15	71	11
Sutherland Sharks	22	4	3	15	38	69	8*

(\*7 points deducted)

**P NEW SOUTH WALES E**  
**PREMIER LEAGUE**

PRODUCTION: Daniel Kuzow, Elly Vea, Mary Quarto,  
 Mark Stavriakas  
 WRITERS: Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin, Ray Sande,  
 Barry Davis  
 PHOTOGRAPHY: Carin Fortado  
 \* All information is courtesy of the NSW Soccer Federation  
 NSWFS Valentine Sports Park 235-257  
 Meurants Lane, GLENWOOD, NSW, 2765  
 Phone: (02) 9629 1800  
 website: www.nswpremierleague.com

# NSW Super League

## PREVIEW SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND EIGHT

**ROCKDALE CITY SUNS v HAJDUK WANDERERS**

Just who will stop the Suns this season? It's a tough question but after an indifferent performance against Macarthur last Saturday night, the Suns could well be there for the taking. Hajduk picked up two wins last week and now sit in fourth spot with four wins and a draw from seven outings. With Timmy Gledhill back amongst the goals and a midfield of Ellul, Worrall and Gonzalez, the Wanderers won't be lying down this week.

**AC UNITED v MACARTHUR RAMS**

AC United coach Paul Carter and his assistant Richard Lasek were interested spectators at Lynwood Park last Saturday night, coming away confident they have a gameplan to knock over the Rams. They dropped a vital three points against Fraser Park last week and will be keen to make amends against a Macarthur side that has seemingly turned the corner. Robert Angievski and Stewart Van Bentum has strengthen the Rams midfield and with defender Tony Judge also due

back soon the future is looking a little more optimistic for coach Hugh McCrory and his troops.

**HURSTVILLE CITY CRESCENT STAR v STANMORE HAWKS**

Crescent Star continue to be one of the 'sleepers' of the Super League competition and have made their way into sixth position after their 3-1



win over Ryde City. With a number of profile signings expected this week they now have the cattle necessary for an assault on the top five. Stanmore roughed up MSC Liverpool last week 4-0 with winger Steve Liavas enjoying a big game. With the likes of Robbie Todorovski getting back to his best and Eric Hristodoulou controlling the midfield this game could well be one of the best games of the round and well worth the effort of attending.

**DULWICH HILL v RYDE CITY**

Both these sides are absolutely desperate for points and both Tony Dunn and Manual Rodrigues will be revving up their troops for a big showing. Dulwich Hill were spanked by Manly last weekend and still have just two wins to show for their endeavours. Ryde City coach Tony Dunn still has an injured list a mile long and looks likely to shuffle his side in an effort to find a winning combination. New signing Eddie Giraldo played his first game with the club in 21's last weekend and could be set for a call up to firsts.

**SYDNEY UNIVERSITY v MANLY-WARRINGAH**

Sydney University coach Stewart Porter believes his side has the game-plan to match second placed Manly this week in one of the games of the round at University number one Oval. "I've seen Manly a few times and they are a very well drilled side with Hamilton Thorpe and Ryan Griffiths said Porter. "But while we don't have the name players like them, we do have a side that is hard-

working and will run all day and we'll be looking to try and frustrate the Manly forwards by cutting off the supply. Porter has Daisuke

anchored to the bottom of the competition table and will need to improve sharply if they are to match the free running Jets. Liverpool have acquired the services of midfielder Dong Ki-Kim and with the Issa brothers and Tony Josevski in the ranks have the makings of a talented side. Fraser Park will look to new signings Jack Sobczyk and Derek Poimer for their inspiration as they try to get themselves into the top five for the first time this season.



Nakayama on the long term injury list after a bad knock but will have midfielder Freddy Umlil back after a week off with a virus.

**MSC LIVERPOOL v FRASER PARK**

MSC Liverpool continue to remain

## Scoreboard

**SUPER LEAGUE RD 7**

### SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

<b>MACARTHUR RAMS</b> .... 1 (S Van Bentum 73')	<b>ROCKDALE CITY SUNS</b> .... 2 (P Apolevski 13', S Najdoski 33')
<b>MANLY WARRINGAH</b> .... 5 (H Thorpe 20', R Griffiths 26'54', M Nickolson 74', D Brickell 85')	<b>DULWICH HILL</b> ..... 0
<b>RYDE CITY</b> ..... 1 (B Burrows 41m)	<b>HURSTVILLE CITY CS</b> .... 3 (A Cetinay 15' pen 82', H Sevgin 84')
<b>HAJDUK WANDERERS</b> ... 3 (T Giedhill 18'30', S Jordan 89')	<b>SYDNEY UNIVERSITY</b> ..... 1 (D Gill 63')
<b>FRASER PARK JETS</b> ..... 1 (D Polmer 81')	<b>AC UNITED</b> ..... 0
<b>STANMORE HAWKS</b> .... 4 (R Todorovski 21', E Hristodoulou 66/79', P Papoythis 86')	<b>MSC LIVERPOOL</b> ..... 0

## SUPER LEAGUE TABLE RD 7

### FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
<b>Rockdale City Suns</b>	7	6	1	0	17	7	10	19
<b>Manly Warringah Dolphins</b>	7	5	1	1	17	7	10	16
<b>Stanmore Hawks</b>	7	4	1	2	13	6	7	13
<b>Hajduk Wanderers</b>	7	4	1	2	15	10	5	13
<b>AC United</b>	7	4	1	2	17	14	3	13
<b>Hurstville City Crescent Star</b>	7	3	1	3	15	15	0	10
<b>Fraser Park Jets</b>	7	2	3	2	7	8	-1	9
<b>Sydney University</b>	7	2	1	4	14	13	1	7
<b>Dulwich Hill</b>	7	2	0	5	8	12	-4	6
<b>Macarthur Rams</b>	7	2	0	5	6	16	-10	6
<b>Ryde City</b>	7	1	2	4	7	12	-5	5
<b>MSC Liverpool</b>	7	0	2	5	3	19	-16	2

## SUPER LEAGUE FIXTURES ROUND 8

		1st Gd	Gd 21	Gd 19			
Sat 4-May	Rockdale Ilinden Field	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM			
Sat 4 May	St George Stadium	5:00PM	3:00PM	1:00PM			
Sun 5-May	Abruzzi Oval	2:00PM	12:00PM	10:00AM			
Sun 5-May	Arlington Oval	2:00PM	12:00PM	10:00AM			
Sun 5-May	Sydney Uni Oval No 1	2:00PM	12:00PM	10:00AM			
Sun 5-May	Hammondville Park	2:00PM	12:00PM	10:00AM			



# NSW Super League



## FEATURE MATCH

MACARTHUR



### Macarthur Rams

v



### Rockdale City Suns

By Greg Stock

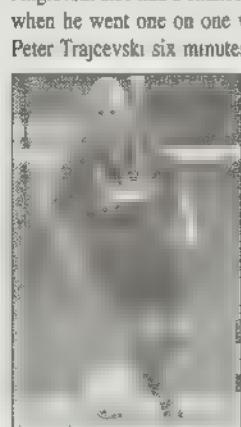
**R**ockdale City might be the side to beat in this years Super League competition, but after a half hearted second half against Macarthur Rams on Saturday night, they just might be there for the taking.

Leading 2-0 after 33 minutes, Rockdale were all over the home side, and could have been 4 or 5 nil up at the break. Spase Najdoski and Zoki Adioski were untouchable early and with Peter 'Pee Wee' Apolevski running rings around Ben Green on the right hand touchline, the Suns were nigh unstoppable.

Apolevski scored a great goal in the 13th minute when he burst through a packed penalty box to nail a right foot strike, while Najdoski finished off a great move from Apolevski and Adioski in the 33rd minute to give his side a 2 goal advantage.

But just when it seemed like the Rockdale machine was about to click into gear and go on with the job they slipped straight back into first gear. Outplayed in the first half the Rams came back with a blend of enthusiasm and dogged persistence and if it wasn't for some poor finishing, they could have torpedoed the Suns perfect record.

Stewart Van Bentum, their new signing from Fairfield, threw his side a lifeline in the 73rd minute when he latched onto a mistimed clearance on the edge



Peter Apolevski:  
Opened the scoring  
for Rockdale.

of the penalty box to make the score 2-1. While Robert Angievski also had a chance to make a hero of himself when he went one on one with Rockdale goalkeeper Peter Trajcevski six minutes from time, but sadly his shot tamely hit the crossbar.

But despite their endeavours the Rams came up empty handed. With an Eric Williams penalty being saved by Peter Trajcevski in the 60th minute, Rockdale really rode their luck.

Collectively they the most talented side in the league, but for long periods of the second half they looked like a side going through the motions. And that is definitely a worry for a side widely tipped as the side to beat this season.

MACARTHUR RAMS 1 (Van Bentum 73')  
- ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 2 (Apolevski  
13', Najdoski 33')  
at Lynwood Park.

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# NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues

## RESULTS AND TABLES

### SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND 9: GRADE 13:

Dulwich Hill 0 Stanmore Hawks 4 Hawkesbury City 1, Camden Tigers 1 Hurstville City Crescent Star 2, Mt Druitt Town 0 MSC Liverpool 5, Rockdale City Suns 0 Parramatta City 6. GRADE 14: Schofield Scorpions 0 Mt Pritchard 6, Ryde City 5 Granville Association 1, Illawarra Lions 0 Dulwich Hill 1, Stanmore Hawks 4 Hawkesbury City 0, Camden Tigers 4 Hurstville City Crescent Star 0, Mt Druitt Town 4 MSC Liverpool 1, Rockdale City Suns 2 Parramatta City 3. GRADE 15:

Dulwich Hill 0 Stanmore Hawks 4 Hawkesbury City 1, Camden Tigers 1 Hurstville City Crescent Star 2, Mt Druitt Town 0 MSC Liverpool 5, Rockdale City Suns 0 Parramatta City 6. GRADE 14: Schofield Scorpions 0 Mt Pritchard 6, Ryde City 5 Granville Association 1, Illawarra Lions 0 Dulwich Hill 1, Stanmore Hawks 4 Hawkesbury City 0, Camden Tigers 4 Hurstville City Crescent Star 0, Mt Druitt Town 4 MSC Liverpool 1, Rockdale City Suns 2 Parramatta City 3. GRADE 15:

Hajduk Wanderers 2 Bankstown City Cubs 3, Mingara Lakers 1 Canterbury Marrickville 0, AC United 1 Nepean Association 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Eastern Suburbs Association 7, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1, Fairfield Bulls 4 Hills United 0 Newcastle United 1. GRADE 14: Blacktown Association 2 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Canterbury Marrickville 0, Macarthur Rams 2 Bankstown City Cubs 1.

O Mingara Lakers 0 Canterbury Marrickville 1, AC United 2 Nepean Association 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs Eastern Suburbs Association Abandoned, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2 Fairfield Bulls 2, Hills United 2 Newcastle United 4. GRADE 15: Blacktown Association 4 Hajduk Wanderers 0, Macarthur Rams 1 Bankstown City Cubs 4, Mingara Lakers 1 Canterbury Marrickville 0, AC United 3 Nepean Association 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Eastern Suburbs

Schofield Scorpions 4 Mt Pritchard 2, Ryde City 2 Granville Association 2 Illawarra Lions 1 Dulwich Hill 1 Stanmore Hawks 0 Hawkesbury City 0, Camden Tigers 0 Hurstville City Crescent Star 0, Mt Druitt Town 1 MSC Liverpool 0, Rockdale City Suns 1 Parramatta City 1. GRADE 17: Schofield Scorpions 0 Mt Pritchard 3, Ryde City 6 Granville Association 0, Illawarra Lions 0 Dulwich Hill 2, Stanmore Hawks 0 Hawkesbury City 1, Camden Tigers 4 Hurstville City Crescent Star 1 Mt

Association 0 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0 Fairfield United 1, Hills United 1 Newcastle United 1 GRADE 17: Blacktown Association 1 Hajduk Wanderers 4, Macarthur Rams 2 Bankstown City Cubs 8, Mingara Lakers 5 Canterbury Marrickville 2, AC United 6 Nepean Association 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Eastern Suburbs Association 2, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1 Fairfield Bulls 6, Hills United 0 Newcastle United 1.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 9: GRADE 13: Schofield Scorpions 3 Mt Pritchard 1, Ryde City 3 Granville Association 2, Illawarra Lions 3 Dulwich Town 1 MSC Liverpool 2, Rockdale City Suns 0 Parramatta City 1.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13 P W D L F A GD Pts Newcastle United 36 28 7 1 12 128 93 91 Bankstown City Cubs 35 19 7 9 65 45 20 64 AC United 36 16 9 11 74 54 20 57 Mingara Lakers 32 16 4 12 55 55 0 52 Nepean Assoc 36 15 8 15 71 65 5 51 Hajduk Wanderers 35 14 9 12 65 68 3 51 Macarthur Rams 36 14 6 15 71 66 5 48 Hills United 36 14 4 18 59 55 4 46 Fairfield Bulls 32 13 5 14 63 74 11 44 Eastern Suburbs Assoc 35 11 10 14 60 64 4 43 Blacktown Assoc 32 13 4 15 49 54 5 43 Fairfield Bulls 35 12 8 20 50 56 36 39

Illawarra Lions 35 12 8 20 50 56 36 39

Ryde City 36 25 6 5 101 25 76 81

Hurstville City CS 36 18 9 9 86 50 36 63

Schofields Scorpions 36 19 6 11 70 55 15 68

Mt Druitt Town 36 20 2 14 73 67 6 62

Mt Pritchard 36 18 7 11 71 47 24 61

Ryde City 36 16 9 11 68 45 23 57

Dulwich Hill 36 16 5 15 48 60-12 53

MSC Liverpool 36 14 6 5 16 73 65 8 48

Illawarra Lions 36 13 7 16 59 57 2 46

Granville Assoc 36 14 4 18 70 79 9 46

Hurstville City CS 36 12 8 16 55 66-11 44

Rockdale City 36 10 6 20 42 90-48 36

Stanmore Hawks 36 9 7 20 48 85-37 34

Hawkesbury City 36 5 4 27 36 109-73 19

Camden Tigers 36 25 6 5 101 25 76 81

Schofields Scorpions 36 18 9 9 86 50 36 63

Mt Druitt Town 36 20 2 14 73 67 6 62

Mt Pritchard 36 18 7 11 71 47 24 61

Ryde City 36 16 9 11 68 45 23 57

Dulwich Hill 36 16 5 15 48 60-12 53

MSC Liverpool 36 14 6 5 16 73 65 8 48

Illawarra Lions 36 13 7 16 59 57 2 46

Granville Assoc 36 14 4 18 70 79 9 46

Hurstville City CS 36 12 8 16 55 66-11 44

Rockdale City 36 10 6 20 42 90-48 36

Stanmore Hawks 36 9 7 20 48 85-37 34

Hawkesbury City 36 5 4 27 36 109-73 19

Bankstown City Cubs 9 3 3 3 8 15 7 12 Hajduk Wanderers 9 3 2 4 16 22 6 11 Blacktown Assoc 8 3 0 5 8 20 12 9 Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 8 2 1 0 5 13 8 7 AC United 9 1 2 6 13 23 10 5 Canterbury Marrickville 9 0 3 6 7 25 18 3 Hills United 9 0 2 7 2 15 13 2

### GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	9	8	1	0	29	6	23	25
Macarthur Rams	9	7	1	1	27	3	24	22
Hajduk Wanderers	9	6	1	2	18	13	5	19
Blacktown Assoc	8	6	0	2	23	10	13	18
AC United	9	5	3	1	21	9	12	18
Nepean Assoc	9	4	1	4	13	14	1	13
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	8	4	0	4	12	18	6	12
Bankstown City Cubs	9	3	2	4	11	14	3	11
Fairfield Bulls	8	3	2	3	12	16	4	11
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	8	1	3	4	7	11	4	6
Hills United	8	2	0	7	14	23	9	6
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	8	1	1	6	8	26-18	4	
Mingara Lakers	8	0	3	5	4	16-12	3	
Canterbury Marrickville	9	0	2	7	3	23-20	2	

### GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Bankstown City Cubs	9	8	1	0	25	3	22	25
Newcastle United	9	5	3	1	26	8	18	18
AC United	9	5	2	2	19	11	8	17
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	8	4	2	2	15	7	8	14
Hills United	9	4	2	3	20	13	7	14
Mingara Lakers	8	4	1	3	16	17	-1	13
Fairfield Bulls	8	3	2	3	12	15	-3	11
Blacktown Assoc	8	2	4	2	10	9	1	10
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	9	2	3	4	11	15	-4	9
Nepean Assoc	9	2	3	4	13	20	7	9
Canterbury Marrickville	9	2	2	5	5	18-13	8	
Hajduk Wanderers	9	0	6	3	8	16	8	6
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	9	1	3	5	5	23-18	6	
Macarthur Rams	9	1	2	6	8	18-10	5	

### GRADE 17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	9	8	1	0	40	11	29	25
Hills United	9	8	0	1	23	4	19	24
Mingara Lakers	8	7	0	1	25	8	17	21
AC United	9	5	2	2	21	11	10	17
Bankstown City Cubs	8	5	1	2	21	13	8	16
Hajduk Wanderers	8	5	0	3	23	17	6	15
Fairfield Bulls	8	3	1	4	18	25	7	10
Canterbury Marrickville	9	2	2	5	11	22	11	8
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	9	2	2	5	10	25	15	8
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	8	2	1	5	13	22	-9	7
Blacktown Assoc	8	2	0	6	8	15	-7	6
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	9	2	0	7	13	25-12	6	
Macarthur Rams	9	1	3	5	16	29-13	6	
Nepean Assoc	9	1	1	7	11	26	15	4

### GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
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Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 32 9 5 18 41 68-27 32

Canterbury Marrickville 36 4 9 23 26 88-62 21

### DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
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Parramatta City 9 7 1 1 33 7 26 22

### GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
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Mt Pritchard 9 7 2 0 21 4 17 23

Mt Druitt Town 9 7 1 1 23 2 21 22

Camden Tigers 9 7 0 2 19 6 13 21

Dulwich Hill 9 5 2 2 11 9 2 17

Ryde City 9 4 3 2 13 6 7 15

MSC Liverpool 9 4 2 3 16 11 5 14

Parramatta City 9 4 0 5 16 12 4 12

Schofields Scorpions 9 3 3 3 12 16 -4 12

Hurstville City CS 9 3 1 5 10 18 -8

Granville Assoc 9 3 1 5 15 27-12 10

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## GRASS ROOTS SOCCER

This week's Grass Roots Soccer recognises the important role parents play when it comes to sport and children.

It was a pleasure visiting a game recently where instead of yelling abuse at the referee and clapping mistakes made by the opposition, the crowd (mostly Mums & Dads) applauded the

efforts and goals scored by the opposing team!

At the end of the day there was a winning team and a losing team but that's not the impression you had when the game ended as players shook hands and thanked referees.

We often forget how much our reactions reflect on our children's behaviour and it's

important that we set good examples for them to follow.

I would encourage everyone to follow the path of these players, coaches and parents and make the game as enjoyable for your kids as possible!

## SUTHERLAND SHIRE JUNIOR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

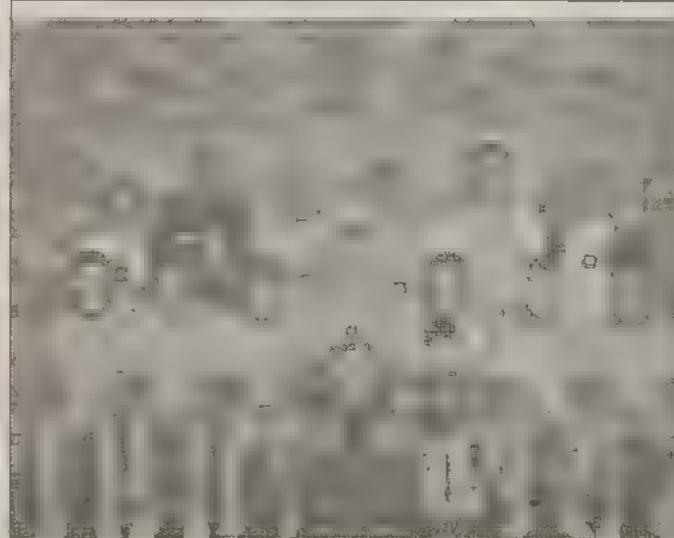
The Sutherland Association was established in 1952 with the affiliation of three clubs, Miranda Magpies, Kirrawee Kangaroos and Caringbah Rangers and by 1958 the Association had a membership of 100 teams in total.

This year Sutherland Association are celebrating their 50th Anniversary with their Anniversary Dinner being held in May and many other celebrations being held throughout the season.

Player numbers have increased over the years. In 1973 the player membership was at a healthy 5850 and growing strong, this year Sutherland boasts a huge membership base of 991 teams and over 13,000 players making Sutherland the largest Soccer Association in NSW and Australia.

The Sutherland Association area is extensive. The 25 clubs affiliated to Sutherland spread from Heathcote in the South to Sylvania in the North to Menai in the West and Cronulla to the East.

Age groups range from Under 6 to Under 8 Non-competitive Roo Ball; Under 9 to Under 21, who play on



Como West Jannali

2001 Champion of Champions U15 Winners.

Saturdays. On Sundays there are competitions for All Age Men, Over 35 men, Girls Under 14, Under 15, Under 17, Women Under 19 and All Age Women.

Registrations for girls and women

has increased dramatically over the last 10 years with 1282 registered in girls and womens teams in 2001 and a large number playing in the mixed teams for the juniors Under 6 to Under 12.

An example of the success of this

Association is the number of teams over the years who have won the State Tournaments and Champion of Champions Competitions.

Many players have risen through the ranks to represent the Shire in Junior and Youth League through to NSL Clubs with Graham Arnold going all the way and representing Australia.

From 2002 the SSJSFA has formed a partnership with the new Sutherland Shire based NSL Club, Sydney Olympic under the name of Olympic Sharks. This team is competing in the NSW Competition out of Toyota Park.

This amalgamation with Olympic Sharks has resulted in teams being entered in the Cadet and Premier Youth League competitions, playing under the name of Olympic Sharks and playing home games at Bates Drive Soccer Centre, Bates Drive, Kareela.

The running of such a large Association is not an easy task and the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation congratulates the President of the Association, Jack Bird and his hard working Management Committee for a job well done!

## WHICH FOOTBALL IS MORE POPULAR?

More than half a million Australian adults played football of some kind in season 1999/2000.

The NSW Dept. of Sport & Recreation released the results of an ABS Participation survey which shows that soccer remains one of the most popular of the football codes in Australia.

Which is the most popular football played by adults in Australia?

Soccer (outdoor)	37%	NSW
Australian Rules	37%	Victoria
Rugby League	18%	NSW & Queensland
Rugby Union	9%	Over 5 million Australians attended football matches in 1999/2000

Which code is most popular in which State?

Soccer	NSW & high numbers in all states
Australian Rules	Victoria

Rugby League NSW & Queensland

Of all children 5-14 years old in Australia, how may play football?

Soccer	11%
Australian Rules	7%
Rugby League	4%
Rugby Union	1.4%

Where is football most popular for children?

Soccer	NSW
Australian Rules	Victoria
Rugby League	NSW & Queensland
Over 5 million Australians attended football matches in 1999/2000	

What football matches do Aussies like to attend? (15 yrs & over)

Soccer had just over 4% of the population attending at least one match. NSW had the most soccer spectators overall with 251,800 attending in 12 months.

Australian Rules was the most popular spectator sport, attended by 2.5 million Australians with Victoria having the most Aussie Rules spectators.

Rugby League was the second most popular spectator sport with 10% of the population attending and NSW having the most Rugby League spectators.

Rugby Union had the least number of spectators, with just 3% of the population attending their matches with NSW again the state with the highest numbers.

## CENTRAL COAST SOCCER ASSOCIATION HOSTS SCHOOLS SOCCER GALA DAYS

Central Coast Soccer Association hosted 5 Soccer Gala Days through March to encourage players of all abilities to become involved in the world game.

A total of 36 schools across the Central Coast over 570 primary and high school children participated in a series of football competitions. The most popular competitions proving to be the girls.

This was the first time they included primary school boys and high school girls. The days are an integral part of the youth development program run in conjunction with the New South Wales Amateur Soccer Federation and Women's Soccer Coordinator, Sharon Dewar.

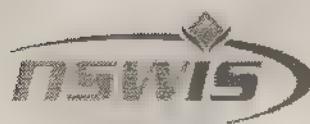
The days are designed to be fun and enjoyable mixed with a mini competition giving everyone the opportunity to participate at another level. For many players this was their first chance to represent their school.

Groups in pools in mini competitions were conducted throughout the day with everyone playing at least three games. First past the post received a medal and each participant a certificate of recognition and promotional materials encouraging them to join their local club.

Champions of the competitions were Our Lady of the Rosary Woy Woy, Gosford Primary, Northlakes High, Narara Primary, Erina Heights Primary, St Patrick's East Gosford, Gorokan Primary, Chertsey Primary and Somersby Primary.

Soccer on the Central Coast is increasing in popularity at an enormous rate and the involvement of the local schools in these programs is going to be great for the kids and great for the sport!

# NSWIS SOCCER PROGRAM MATCHING ELITE DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE



**By Binesh Mudaliar**

The New South Wales Institute of Sport (NSWIS) under 15/16 team recently returned from an eight-match tour of Holland, Belgium and Germany.

Shortly after touching down in Sydney, the Head Coach of the NSWIS Men's Soccer Program, Kelly Cross, evaluated the two-week trip over a cup of coffee with ABSW's Binesh Mudaliar.

**Binesh Mudaliar (BM):** Kelly, why are overseas tours of such importance in high performance programs such as the NSWIS Men's Soccer Program?

**Kelly Cross (KC):** To prepare players for international competition, you need to give them international experience.

**BM: What was the aim of this tour?**

**KC:** We wanted to expose the boys to European football and its varying styles. We also wanted to compare our players to their players, hopefully to learn that we



**Kelly Cross: NSWIS Head Coach.**

LEARNING WHILE OVERSEAS I FURTHERED MY EDUCATION IN MANY WAYS. I HOPE TO PASS THIS ON TO OTHER COACHES IN NSW AT A LATER DATE.

**BM: Was there ever a stage, where you thought, "Wow, these guys are too good for us?"**

**KC:** NOT REALLY LOOK AT THE ONLY TWO GAMES WE LOST BORUSSIA DORTMUND U18/19 AGAINST OUR 15S AND 16S, OF COURSE WE'LL STRUGGLE.

WE SPENT OVER FOUR HOURS ON THE BUS THAT DAY, THEN THE NEXT DAY WE DROVE TWO HOURS TO PLAY FEYENOORD U16/17 THEY ARE CONSIDERED BETTER THAN AJAX IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AT THE MOMENT.

WE WERE LEADING 2-0 AT HALF TIME! WE STARTED TO TIRE IN THE SECOND HALF, OBVIOUSLY, AND TO THEIR CREDIT THEY CHANGED THEIR GAME TO STRETCH US, AND WE LOST 4-2 BUT DON'T FORGET, THEY HAD SIX CURRENT DUTCH INTERNATIONALS!

THE ONLY TWO GAMES WHEN WE PLAYED TEAMS WITH U16S ONLY, WE WON 3-0 AND 5-0 AND WE HAD 6 UNDER 15S IN OUR SQUAD - NO TEAM WE PLAYED AGAINST HAD UNDER 15S!

**BM: Is there a dramatic difference between elite youth development in Australia and Europe?**



**Jacob Timpano: NSWIS Captain.**



**Josip Skoko: Socceroo witnessed one of the NSWIS matches.**

DEVELOP YOUNGSTERS TO A SIMILAR LEVEL HERE THE NEXT TIME ANY OF THESE LADS COME UP AGAINST EUROPEAN OPPONENT. THEY'LL KNOW THEY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.

**BM: As a group, how much did the NSWIS learn from their overseas trip?**

**KC:** THE NSWIS ATHLETES LEARNED A GREAT DEAL.  
-PLAYING IN A COLD CLIMATE  
PLAYING AGAINST PLAYERS FROM OTHER CULTURES  
-PLAYING UNDER REFEREES WHO DON'T SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE  
PLAYING AGAINST TEAMS WITH DIFFERENT TACTICS  
-TRAVELLING LONG DISTANCES FOR COMPETITION  
-DEALING WITH JETLAG  
STAYING IN A HOTEL UNDER STRICT TEAM RULES  
-SIMULATED WORLD CUP CONDITIONS (PLAYING, TRAINING, RECOVERING, TRAVELLING EVERYWHERE BY BUS, ETC, ETC)  
-LIVING IN A TEAM ENVIRONMENT AWAY FROM FAMILY AND USUAL SOCIAL CIRCLE ALL THE ABOVE ARE VALUABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCES



**The NSWIS and Borussia Dortmund teams just prior to their match.**

FOR FUTURE PROFESSIONALS.

**BM: As a coach, were there new coaching techniques or drills you learnt?**

**KC:** AS A PROFESSIONAL COACH, I AM ALWAYS



**Harry Kewell: Past NSWIS graduate.**

IT DEPENDS ON THE COUNTRY I BELIEVE WE DO MORE THAN MOST ENGLISH CLUBS, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS SOME DUTCH OR GERMAN CLUBS. THE FRENCH ARE WAY AHEAD OF US.

I SPENT THREE DAYS AT THE FRENCH NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN CLAREFONTAINE, AND EVEN ASSISTED WITH THEIR TRIALS FOR THEIR NEXT INTAKE, I.E. BOYS BORN IN 1989. THEY HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF TALENT ALREADY AT THAT AGE.

**BM: A lot of people comment that Australian players, don't have the street smarts when it comes to football. What is your view on this?**

**KC:** DIFFICULT QUESTION, AS I BELIEVE SOME OF OUR LADS ARE AS GOOD AS ANYONE. HOWEVER, I DO HAVE TO SAY THAT WHEN I WAS IN SOUTH AMERICA WITH THE JOEYS, EVERY TEAM WE PLAYED AGAINST WERE EXPERTS AT ALL THE LITTLE TRICKS!

**BM: Have the boys come back better players?**

**KC:** I BELIEVE THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR DEVELOPMENT IN A POSITIVE WAY. THEY SHOULD NOW HAVE A LOT MORE CONFIDENCE AND SELF BELIEF, TOO.

**BM: And finally, I understand you were a special guest at Arsenal?**

**KC:** THAT'S RIGHT, I SPENT TWO WEEKS OBSERVING EVERYTHING FROM THE FIRST TEAM DOWN TO THE UNDER 12S.

## TOUR RESULTS

### NSWIS U-15/16 versus

20 MARCH	VENLO U-18, 19	0-0
22 MARCH	BAYER LEVERKUSEN U-16	1-1
24 MARCH	BORUSSIA DORTMUND U-18, 19	0-4
25 MARCH	FEYENOORD U-16, 17	2-4 (2-0 UP HALF-TIME. THEY HAD 6 DUTCH INTERNATIONALS)
26 MARCH	WILLEM II U-16	3-0
27 MARCH	BORUSSIA MOENCHENGLADBACH U-16, 17	0-0
30 MARCH	RACING GENK U-16	5-2
31 MARCH	ALEMANIA AACHEN U-18	5-1

# LEADER SUFFERS FIRST DEFEAT

By Bert van Bedaf

**I**t was the contest between top and bottom, but visitor's Heidelberg United proved the better side, defeating Green Gully 1-0 with a late penalty last Sunday night.

The Cavaliers struck the post in the first half and Heidelberg had the better chances in the second half. But it ran into Gully keeper Robert Brian, who blocked the spot kick by Peter Kakos in the 84th minute. The

Berger striker, however, smashed home the rebound for the title defender's second win of the season.

Substitute Nick Lazarevski forced Gully defender Zoran Markovski into fouling him inside the area and Kakos finally got the winner that send the league leader to its first defeat of the season.

It also was Heidelberg's second win under coach Vlado Vanis, who has managed to shore up the Berger's easy defence and get the title defender to play with more purpose and conviction.

Heidelberg kept a clean sheet for the first time this season, having conceded 27 goals in ten matches.

"In the first half Green Gully is the better side and we were lucky that we didn't score a goal. In the second half I got the feeling we were the better side," Vanis said.

"We should have finished the game earlier, when Peter Kakos got that clean header but Brian made a excellent save. But I'm happy it's the first game we did not concede any goals," he said.

Vanis praised Lazarevski for forcing the decider.

"It was very hard for me to drop Lazarevski because he scored a goal against St Albans (Bergers won 3-1). I had to choose between him and (Adam) Shertovski and I chose Nick because he has a little bit more speed on the left flank."

"But 'Iaza' was my choice to come on for the last 20 minutes (for Shertovski) and he did an excellent job. I told him to hold the ball and go in the box and they (Gully defence) might make a free-kick or try to and they did," Vanis said.

Green Gully coach Ian Dobson assumed the point he hated losing the game and concentrated on the fact the

Cavaliers were still leading the competition.

"We had the better of the first half, we hit the post, but it was still null at half time. There are no easy teams in this league and we expected a difficult game. But based on the balance of play a draw would have been fair," Dobson said.

Heidelberg had the better possess on in the second half and Robert Brian made a very good save from the Kakos' header and they got the penalty.

"This is our first loss and we rest 1 on top. There's another 17 games to go and we'll have to keep on doing the things we've been doing."

"We'll definitely consolidate top three position and go to the finals."

We're still top of the league, so nothing changes."

"We'll get in the finals this year and give it a good shake. But we've got to see the season out before we get too carried away," he said.

The Cavaliers had most of the possession in the first half, but they failed to use it to their advantage.

Gully's Simon Storey hit the left post in the 16th minute and shot

just wide five minutes later. Nick Tsaltas headed wide in the 25th minute from an Ic Kutlesovski cross.

Steve Douglas curled a low shot wide of the left post in the 38th minute from a Mijo Trpkovic pass and Berger defender Steve Mangos saved off the line three

minutes before half time.

Heidelberg created one first-half chance in the 35th minute when Mile Medjedovic had a shot from 20 metres that Gully keeper Robert Brian parried wide for a corner.

Its confidence buoyed by keeping the Cavaliers scoreless in the opening

half, Heidelberg took the initiative after the break and created its second opportunity of the game in the 50th minute.

Damian Vojtek took the corner and floated the ball into the area, where

Medjedovic glanced it wide of the far post where two Green Gully defenders anxiously watched it fly past.

Damian Vojtek took the corner and floated the ball into the area, where

Medjedovic glanced it wide of the far post where two Green Gully defenders anxiously watched it fly past.

Heidelberg continued to press and former VPL top scorer Kakos cracked a top shot on target just in the hour for what could have been the opening goal. But Brian parried it and Markovski cleared.

Brian again saved Gully from conceding when he denied Kakos a red hot header in the 78th minute.

The Gully crowd roared their disapproval when Heidelberg got its penalty.

But Dobson had no problems with it. "Markovski pulled Lazarevski down in the box. It was a clear penalty," Dobson said afterwards.

Brian blocked the shot, but Kakos was quick to run in and side-foot the rebound high into the net for the winner that got the Bergers firmly off the bottom of the table.

## LIONS MAUL ROYS

**I**t took more than an hour before the Preston Lions got the better of Fitzroy City, but the home side eventually ran out a convincing 2-0 winner at BT Connor Reserve last Sunday.

Captain Chris Emsovska broke the deadlock with a penalty just past 70 minutes and John Sapazovski scored the Lions' second goal about three minutes later.

It was Preston's third win for the season, putting them in touch with the top five of the Victorian Premier League on 12 points in seventh spot.

League rookie Fitzroy shared nine points with Preston and must now be starting to look anxiously towards the relegation zone, having dropped to ninth place.

The Preston crowd gave Fitzroy coach Doug Hodgson some verbal stick after the game. Hodgson left Preston after two rounds and signed to coach the Roys just over three weeks ago.

Preston coach Vlade Tortelevski was delighted with the home victory. "This was an important win for us," Tortelevski said.

"We've been playing good football in the last few weeks and we did well again."

"We created opportunities in the first half but we didn't finish it. It took us an hour to open the scoring."

"The boys again worked very hard, but I'm not putting any pressure on them by talking about the top five."

"We'd want to have a few more wins under our belt and then we'll think about something else," he said.

## OLVER CUTS DEVILS FROM SQUAD

By Bert van Bedaf

**N**SL club South Melbourne's assistant coach Jeff Olver, who last week took over as coach of Victorian State League division one club Thomastown Devils, cast his eyes over the squad and decided only a handful of Devils would fit in his plans.

South Melbourne's youth academy MVP Football Institute, runs by George Christopoulos, moved in last week to be in charge at the 32-year-old Thomastown club.

Thomastown's hopes and dreams to keep the ailing club alive have come at a cost and more sacrifices might have to be made sometime in the future.

"There have been casualties at Thomastown, mostly from the senior list."

"They will be put on the transfer list as free players. I will, however, assist any player that needs to find a club," Thomastown president Fernando Dimasi said.

The Devils beat Oakleigh 1-0 last Sunday week with Olver's assistant Gary Groenewald in charge. Olver was in Brisbane with South Melbourne for the 4-1 aggregate elimination victory of the Brisbane Strikers.

The Devils included only two Thomastown players in the starting line-up and three on the bench. In the line-up were Oliver Stankovski and Michael Ioannidis. On the bench were Muhammad Soufi-Sabbagh, Michael Mannelli and Sam Kalaxas.

In a set-up geared for youth, there was no room for older heads such John Gasparini, Zlatko Magic, Andrew Vitadello, David Grbac, Frankie Chirico and Vincent Tartaglia.

So far, Magic has found a new home at North Coburg in the second division and Vitadello with Doncaster Rovers in the second division.

Gasparini is negotiating with first division rival Essendon Royals.

Dimasi said the Victorian Soccer Federation had "approved the registration of the South Melbourne youth players to Thomastown Devils".

VSF chief executive Geoff Miles confirmed the transfers. "The South Melbourne (youth) players have been registered with Thomastown in accordance with the VSF regulations," Miles said.



**Jeff Olver:**  
Thomastown Devils  
coach.

Players have been "transferred to Thomastown", Dimasi said, adding,

"The boys will be contracted to

Thomastown Devils." But information given to ABSW also indicates player contracts will be owned by VSF and not by Thomastown.

There also seems an agreement in place that "the proceeds of any players sold overseas won't flow to Thomastown unless 'the player originally was a Thomastown player'".

Dimasi believes "the program will work, because the youth players will now have a summer competition and a winter competition".

The club will be known as Thomastown Devils in the "winter" State League competition. When it transfers to the National Youth League "summer" competition, will the club move to South Melbourne?

And what members fear most with such a move is "will Thomastown effectively cease to exist"?

## 10-MEN ROYALS UNLUCKY TO DRAW

**T**he Essendon Royals and the Albion Rovers staged an entertaining and drama filled match on Saturday afternoon at the Reggio Calabria Club, sharing the spoils 2-2.

With Essendon reduced to ten men after just twelve minutes when defender David Turkovic was sent off for an aggressive tackle, signs of commitment and endeavour were shown from the remaining players as Essendon, at times outplayed its opponent. Frank Bazzano's skilful goal together with Len Catalano's rocket drive from close range was enough for the Royals to avoid defeat.

Essendon Royals went into the weekend's match under the guidance of newly appointed coach, Ken Murphy, who has led a number of Premier League and National League clubs to success in the past. The Club have looked upon him as the man it sees that can put behind the turmoil of recent weeks and start re-building a serious challenge for the championship. The Royals' starting formation remained unchanged to the side that lost to Dandenong seven days earlier.

As early as twelve minutes, the game swung dramatically in Albion's favour when Essendon were forced to play the remaining 80-odd minutes with one man less. Royal defender, David Turkovic's tackle was deemed too aggressive from match referee Robert Josifoski, and a red card was produced giving Turkovic his marching orders.

Things went from bad to worse for the Royals, with striker Miles Tidd being rushed to hospital on 22 minutes, losing sight in his right eye, after the ball was cannoned into his head.

With 31 minutes played, Albion struck first blood. A lightning quick George Papadopoulos skipped past a number of Essendon tackles to find himself inside the penalty box. Ignoring two unmarked teammates in the centre, Papadopoulos beat his luck with a well-placed shot on goal, which beat Chris Vella at the near post. 0-1

Despite a lacklustre first half, a player sent off and one of its strikers rushed to hospital, the Royals came out for the second half looking the more dangerous team.

With just 12 minutes played in the second half, Essendon were rewarded when Frank Bazzano collected a pass from inside the penalty box. Still needing to beat an Albion defender, Bazzano dummied to his right before wrong footing the hapless defender by dragging the ball on to his left foot. With only Duman in the Albion goals to beat, Bazzano stroked the ball into the back of the net to cap off a well-worked move. 1-1

Essendon's joy was only short lived when just 7 minutes later, when Serhat Hulusi's seemingly harmless shot from just outside the penalty box, found its way past Vella and into the back of the net, to the joy of the visiting supporters. 1-2.

Essendon continued to push forward and it took just 10 minutes to find its second equaliser of the match. From Frank Bazzano's cross on the right side, a goal mouth scramble developed before the ball spilled to Lenny Catalano just 12 yards out from goal. With a first time strike on goal, the ball somehow found its way through a forest of legs and into the back of the net. 2-2.

Smelling victory, Essendon pushed on, and within the last ten minutes of the match had excellent chances to punch a winning goal. Frank Catalano had a glorious chance to score when a poor clearance from an Albion defender fell to his feet just 10 yards out from goal. However, the recovering defender gallantly blocked his shot on goal.

Albion's keeper Ozgur Duman needed to ask his defenders on two separate occasions for assistance with Essendon looking for winner. Duman looked like he had lost concentration after he had childishly confronted an Essendon supporter when earlier conceding his first goal of the afternoon.

He was beaten firstly by an audacious Lenny Catalano header that thundered towards the inside of the front post before being cleared out by the defender marshalling that area. He was again beaten, this time by an Aditis Kablar chip that was goal bound but for another defender to clear with a header off the goal line.

Essendon will be without defender David Turkovic next week as he will be serving his suspension for the match against Westgate at the Reggio Calabria Club.

Although Saturday's draw was encouraging due purely to the length of time the Royals were forced to play with one player less, a victory against Westgate is paramount in order to get the season back on track. The Royals have now gone three matches without victory, and desperately need three championship points to keep in touch with the league's front-runners.

The Essendon Reserve team comprehensively defeated Albion in the afternoon's curtain raiser winning by 3-0. Two goals from Diego Duanne and a single from defender Joe Arceri was enough to convince those in attendance that Essendon playing future looks bright as the youthful Royals played the Rovers off the park.

## VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE STATS

### ROUND 10 RESULTS

SUN, 28 APR, 1:00 PM

Altona East Phoenix SC .....	3
St Albans Saints SC .....	1
Bentleigh Greens SC .....	1
Whittlesea Stallions SC .....	3
Fawkner Blues SC .....	1
Port Melb Sharks SC .....	3
Preston Lions SC .....	1
Fitzroy City SC .....	4

### 2002 PREMIER LEAGUE

#### ROUND 9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
1. Green Gully Cavaliers SC	9	6	3	0	12	2	21
2. Bentleigh Greens SC	10	5	4	1	16	11	19
3. Port Melbourne Sharks SC	10	5	3	2	22	15	18
4. Altona East Phoenix SC	10	5	3	2	16	12	18
5. Whittlesea Stallions SC	10	4	4	2	15	15	16
6. Fawkner Blues SC	10	4	3	3	15	14	15
7. Fitzroy City SC	10	3	3	4	12	11	12
8. St Albans Saints SC	10	3	1	6	8	15	10
9. Preston Lions SC	10	2	3	5	11	17	9
10. Altona Magic SC	9	2	2	5	14	13	8
11. Heidelberg United SC	9	1	3	5	16	27	6
12. Bulleen Zebras SC	9	1	2	6	10	15	5

# NORTHERN DIVISION FINAL: POWER DRILL WOLVES TO CLAIM NORTHERN DIVISION TITLE



**Parramatta Power Youth ...3**

(Holman 16', Brown 44', Groves 77')



**Wollongong Wolves Youth ...1**

(Dellis 58')

By Ben Moring

**P**assion, pace and enthusiasm were in abundance as the young stars of Australian soccer took centre stage for the Northern Division Final of the



Wolves star Daniel Aliffi attempts to take on Former U/17 Joey Pedge Bojic during last Sunday's Northern Division final.

National Youth League, at Marconi Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

However, experience pays and Parramatta Power claimed a 3-1 vic-

tory on the day, courtesy of fine displays from some of their first grade contingent.

Brett Holman, Michael Brown and Bradley Groves registered strikes in the 16th, 44th and 77th minute respectively to overshadow their opponents from the South Coast, whose solitary goal came from the battling Leighal Dellis, thirteen minutes into the second stanza.

Silverware was up-for-grabs and typically of a final, there was a little bit of niggle about the match. This evident in the opening exchanges, both sides feeling their way around the pitch and tussling in numerous midfield scraps.

Parramatta settled first and sent a few salvos at Scott Whalan in the Wolves goal. However, the gloveman comfortably held two early efforts from Peter Gavaghan and a third from Bradley Groves inside the opening 11 minutes.

Five minutes later and the electric Holman opened the scoring in emphatic fashion. The striker receiving a pass from midfield, turning onto his left foot and sending a low shot into the bottom left hand corner of the net from 20 yards.

The same player could have doubled the lead 9 minutes later, but ballooned a shot over the bar from 12 yards after racing clear of his marker.

It is rumoured that young Holman

is off to trials, his destination Holland with Dutch club Feyenoord

Wollongong was not pedestrian by any stretch of the imagination,

last-ditch challenge on the Wolves' Daniel Aliffi, who bore down upon goal following a great run down the right flank by Darren McDonald.

cushion into the break. Michael Brown and Adam Kwasnik played a neat exchange in midfield, culminating in Brown rolling his angled shot into the bottom right corner.

Wollongong started the second half in positive fashion and tested Vukovic more frequently. Aliffi firing a warning shot from distance six after the restart. The Power keeper needed to be alert when Boscoscuro hit a low drive four minutes later.

On 58 minutes, the impressive Dellis pulled one back, as he lashed a right footed shot into the bottom left corner of the net from 14 yards.

All of a sudden it was Wollongong who was asking the questions. The pressure beginning to mount on the Power and their defence was becoming edgy. In the 65th minute, Blake Oliver played a short ball back to Matthew Thompson, who needed to be clear sharply as Dellis bore down upon the



Northern Division champions: Parramatta Power Youth.

however they took near on 27 minutes to manufacture a decent chance Ben Jarman played a lovely weighted pass to Dellis and he in turn squared a lovely ball across the area, but two Wolves players managed to scupper the chance through a complete lack of communication.

Two minutes later and the strong

Wollongong had the chance to pull level on 32 minutes, David Boscoscuro brought down in the box. The resultant penalty expertly saved by Daniel Vukovic, diving across to his left to parry the spot kick.

The Power awoke from this scare to finish the half strongly and it was



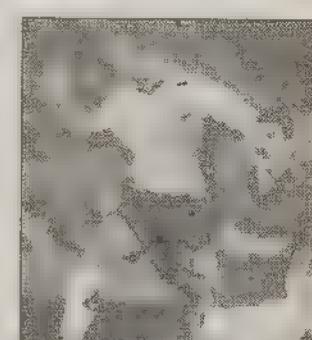
The worst feeling in the world: Wolves youngsters feel the strain of their final loss to the Power.

last man at the back.

Parramatta looked to finish off their opposition, but couldn't nail a number of opportunities, the best falling to Kwasnik on 74 minutes, his side-foot effort lacked timing and power and bobbed wide, this fol-

lowing Holman's neat square after beating marker Shane Lockhart

It was game over only three minutes later, 3-1 to the Power when



Former Leeds United Youth and now Power player Brad Groves in action during last Sunday's final.

Brad Groves' shot took a wicked deflection, wrong footing Whalan and nestling in the back of the Wolves' net.

The lead up to the goal was like de ja vu, Holman using his pace to skip past stationary defenders and squaring unselfishly to the scorer, who had time to measure his shot from the edge of the box.

Indicative of the spirit the match was played, the Wolves continued ever forward, the tireless Dellis trying an audacious 35 yard shot which flew straight to the waiting arms of Vukovic.

A fine display of football, a worthy showcase of young talent, the wealth of that talent will hold Australian soccer in good stead for the future. Congratulations to both clubs.

## SOCER WOMAN WITH JANENE MAR

### YOUNG MATILDAS CRUISE THROUGH TO SEMIFINALS

GROUP B : MATCH TWO .

**AUSTRALIA 15** (Katie Gill 7m, 10m, Catherine Cannuli 20m, 34m, 46+m, 72m, Emma Davison 22m, Jessica Mitchell 28m, Kate McShea 37m, 62m, Thea Slatyer 64m, Elissia Canham 74m, 91+m, Selin Kuralay 82m, Lana Harch 95+m) defeated COOK ISLANDS 0.

The Young Matildas have a four-day break before their semifinal in the Oceania U19 Women's World Championship Qualifiers in Tonga after cruising to a 15-0 victory on Friday evening over the Cook Islands and securing first position in Group B.

Goalkeeper Luisa Marzotto made her youth international debut, but was more of a spectator in the one sided affair which saw Australia up 8-0 at half-time. Katie Gill kicked off the goalfeast with a double inside the first ten minutes.

Catherine Cannuli top scored after bagging her second international four-goal haul, having first scored that many on debut against the senior Singapore team last August. Captain Kate McShea and Elissia Canham also each scored twice, from a total of nine Australian scorers.

The Young Matildas will face the second-placed team in Group A in Wednesday's semifinal. With Fiji up against frontrunners New Zealand, this is likely to be either Samoa or American Samoa who play each other tomorrow. Group B combatants Tonga and Cook Islands will fight it out for the remaining semifinal berth on Monday.

In yesterday's Group A matches, favourites New Zealand came away with a 2-0 win over American Samoa, the Kiwis finding it difficult to break down their opponent's defensive tactics. Samoa came from behind to snatch maximum points with a 2-1 victory over Fiji.

Progressive Points Tables .

**Group A :** New Zealand 6pts, Samoa 3; Fiji 1; American Samoa 1.

**Group B :** Australia 6pts, Tonga 0; Cook Islands 0.

### YOUNG MATILDAS OPEN QUALIFIERS WITH BIG WIN OVER HOSTS

GROUP B : MATCH ONE .

**AUSTRALIA 11** (Hayley Crawford 5m, Collette McCallum 19m, 88m, Emma Davison 22m, Caitlin MuOoz

28m, Selin Kuralay 44m, 50m, 67m, Thea Slatyer 51m, Amber Neilson 63m, Stacey Stocco 75m) defeated TONGA 0.

The Young Matildas opened their campaign in the Oceania U19 Women's World Championship Qualifiers with a comfortable 11-0 win over hosts Tonga last Wednesday afternoon, after eight players posted their name on the score-sheet.

The two teams put on an entertaining show in front of an appreciative crowd as Tonga defended with great determination. Despite an excellent performance by Tongan goalkeeper Lekilihi, Australia's advantages in terms of experience, skill, and fitness were overwhelming.

The difference between the teams was apparent early, the Young Matildas opening their account at the five minute mark, and following up with another three within the half-hour.

Highlights of the match included Collette McCallum's effectiveness in set plays, scoring twice herself from long range freekicks and delivering two corners which were converted by Hayley Crawford and Emma Davison.

Selin Kuralay came on off the bench ten minutes before half time, and finished top scorer with a hattrick. Her first goal was care of a deflection off a teammate's shot just before the break, followed by a flick at the near post to finish a McCallum cross. Kuralay then struck from the edge of the box to complete the triple.

Caitlin MuOoz scored in the first half on the turn from a McCallum freekick on the left. Defender Thea Slatyer found herself in sight of goal to volley home an Elissia Canham cross. Amber Neilson nailed a 20 metre drive, and Stacey Stocco nicked in from close range from a Canham cross.

Goalkeeper Lisa Hartley and forward Lisa De Vanna each celebrated their youth international debut as members of the starting eleven.

National Youth Coach Mike Mulvey said it was a pleasing first-up performance. "Once we started to adapt to the conditions, including the hard surface, we started to play some good stuff. Now we're looking to fine-tune the quality of our passing." Mulvey added that some of the goals were spectacular, but he was looking forward to improvement in the next game.

The team passed through the match without serious injury, although some players have been badly grazed on the

hard, dry surface.

Australia - Hartley, McShea (c), Reuter, Slatyer, McCallum, MuOoz (Neilson 58), Stocco, Davison, Harch, De Vanna (Canham 46), Crawford (Kuralay 35).

Previous Day's Group A Results .

American Samoa 0 drew with Fiji 0

New Zealand 10 defeated Samoa 0

### FAX YOUR SUPPORT

You can show your support for the Young Matildas as they enter the crucial finals stages of the Oceania U19 Qualifiers by sending them a good luck fax. Just remember, Tonga is 3 hours ahead of Sydney time, so don't leave it to the last minute. The semifinals are on tomorrow (Wed) afternoon, and the final on Friday afternoon.

Please address your fax as follows -

Attn - Berthy May, Team Manager

Australian U19 Soccer Team

International Dateline Hotel

Fax 0015-676-23410

team went on to win the final

Also flying the Aussie flag is former Matildas Coach Tom Sermanni who is also back for his second season at the CyberRays as Assistant Coach.

### AUSSIES FLOCK TO THE USA

Seven Matildas have flocked to the USA for the upcoming W-League season. Kelly Golebiowski (2001 W-1 Rookie of the Year) returns to the Hampton Roads Piranhas who placed equal third in last year's W-1 National Championship, and is joined by Aussie teammates Petrina Claire Heppner and Cassandra Kell. The team is based in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Amy Wilson and April Mann have signed up with the renamed Greensboro Twisters (formerly Piedmont Spark) in Greensboro, North Carolina. Joanne Peters has headed to the Charlotte Lady Eagles in Charlotte, North Carolina, the 2001 W-2 champions. Cheryl Salisbury is with the Memphis Mercury in Memphis, Tennessee, last year's Western Conference winners. Leanne Timboit was also to have played for Mercury, but recently suffered a broken leg whilst playing in Adelaide.

Golebiowski is the only one of this group to have previously played in the W-League, the highest level of non-professional soccer in America. Mann spent some time in the US last year with NCAA Division II college Franklin Pierce. The well-travelled Salisbury played in the world's first female professional league, Japan's L-League, for three seasons in the mid-90s. The remaining four players are experiencing their first overseas league.

As well as players from around the world, the W-League also includes many top American college players in its 14-game season. For the first time, this season's Championship match will be televised nationally as part of a deal with Fox Sports International.

This year, the league becomes one compact, high standard single division, a change from the previous W-1 and W-2 divisions. The teams are split between three geographical Conferences - Eastern, Western, and Central. Hampton Roads, Greensboro, Charlotte, and Memphis all play in the Central Conference; although Memphis is in the Central Division, whereas the other three are included in the Atlantic Division.

The league kicks off on 4 May, with Hampton Roads to face Greensboro in a real Aussie-flavour clash.



# WC STADIUMS 2002 PART A



## The Munsu Stadium, Ulsan, South Korea

**A**nother stadium built to represent its local area, this time the stadium is built apparently to look like a crane crouching down about to take off. The crane is the bird that is the symbol of the city of Ulsan. The roof of the stadium is dominated by a cable system.

The capacity is over 43000 and the internal design fairly simplified. The stadium is surrounded by mountains and nature makes much more of this simply designed ground. In fact the local area's beauty is in sharp contrast to the industrial hub that Ulsan the city is.

Hyundai's headquarters are in this city. These days they are not just a car manufacturer but a conglomerate whose businesses also include oil refining, petrochemicals, shipbuilding and machinery.

Korean legends reveal that Ulsan was an important harbour over a thousand years ago, trading with remote Arab countries.

A legend from the Silla Kingdom said a man, believed to have been an Arab, arrived in Ulsan in 879 for trade and then settled to live among the people. Today, oil tankers built in Ulsan carry crude oil back and forth from Arab states.

Ulsan and two neighbouring cities, Pohang and Changwon, form a techno belt, where 1.5 million cars are produced each year. With the biggest shipyard in the world, the area is also a home of many multinational petrochemical corporations as well as a centre for the domestic shipbuilding industry.

Ulsan's average citizen is just 29 years old, making it the

youngest city in Korea. Its per capita GNP is US\$17470, making it also one of Korea's most affluent cities. The population is a perfect target for football.

The local football team is the Ulsan Hyundai Tigers and they opened Munsu Stadium with a match on the 28th April 2001.

Location:	Far S. Ok-
Gyu, Hyeo J., Ulsan	
Capacity:	43,552
Parking:	3,263
Access:	3 hrs from Ulsan
Train:	1 hr 40 min
Bus:	1 hr 40 min
Car:	1 hr 40 min
Flight:	1 hr 40 min
Boat:	1 hr 40 min
Ulsan Airport (25 min)	



# Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

**P**hilosophy of Soccer Part 2 — call it football to be politically correct. Is Soccer Australia losing the plot?

The new man in charge, Mr Ian Knopf is leading the ship; slowly sinking some may say, now for nearly 12 months. Not much has changed; no new directions, no restructure to activate progress of soccer in general can be seen.

Let's look at those past and some new ones of the hierarchy supposed to promote our game. Where are the real soccer people?

Positions were filled with politi-cark silently without much fanfare to progress our sport. Who are they you may ask? Hundreds are still living among us, never asked for any input. To name some just look at those representing Australia in International games, at World Cup level or other friendly games.

Without causing anybody embarrassment, permission is sought to name some — listening to soccer personality Johnny Warren, one cannot help feeling true passion and ambition to carry on regardless of knock-backs.

Have the soccer rulers ever considered seeking advice from him or others like Manfred Schaefer, Adrian Alston, Charly Yankos, David Ratcliff, Leo Baumgartner (known as the professor), Johnny Kosmina, Eddie Thompson, Frank Arok, Ron Corry, George Keith and many more coming to mind.

Have we made enough use of experienced coaches like Raul Blanco, Les Schenflug, Rale Rrs, Amateur Associations, etc. State league bodies with hundreds of divisions, NSL organisation all affiliated to a rather ineffective Soccer Australia.

### Soccer Australia

One can only shake ones head in frustration about the mess we find ourselves in.

Perhaps the way out is for club delegates to vote out the present board and start fresh. Nothing could be lost since we are already heading down instead of up. love for soccer.

Another point to be made, concerns the lack of corporate business sponsors for the national league. Are our soccer leaders not capable of securing million dollar sponsors as other codes do with ease?

It does seem so looking at the budget shortfalls, to be unloaded onto the grass-root soccer community. It past years the powerful Westfield boss was heavily involved in Australian soccer. Questions must be asked who and what drove him away; why did soccer lose a giant in the business world like h.m?

We are confronted at present with a huge shambles. Considering the enormous soccer playing public in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory, ACT plus powerful State Soccer Associations heading local juniors, Amateur Associations, etc. State league bodies with hundreds of divisions, NSL organisation all affiliated to a rather ineffective Soccer Australia.

One can only shake ones head in frustration about the mess we find ourselves in.

Perhaps the way out is for club delegates to vote out the present board and start fresh. Nothing could be lost since we are already heading down instead of up.

Keep smiling soccer football folks, it could take years to progress, persevere the good

cause, it won't die despite gross incompetence.

**W**olves - The Wollongong club has made the tough decisions according to chairman Joe Cachia, enabling them to continue operations following a business plan based on economics,



Ron Corry: Wollongong Wolves coach.

avoiding over-the-top players payments. Also for the first time mentioned is the rumoured move to the Lysaght Recreation Centre within a couple of years. Owned by genuine soccer minded businessmen, improvements with the help of a Government funding are now a believable reality. The general outlook is a little more optimistic and further developments will be observed.

**C**oach Ron Corry - has sufficient knowledge to assemble a competitive squad even though he could lose a few regulars from this year.

There are very capable young goalkeepers in the ISA competitions, as well as talented young players. One only has to check out several Sydney NSL clubs to note the number of young players call-

ing Wollongong home, who have grand Conference Leagues games, meet the supporters and win fans over to follow the Wolves.

This has been lacking in the past years with the average local fan having never talked or met a Wolves official or player.

Change that feeling into a new beginning of communication provides the ideal opportunity to move around Premier and Conference Leagues games, meet the supporters and win fans over to follow the Wolves. This has been lacking in the past years with the average local fan having never talked or met a Wolves official or player. Change that feeling into a new beginning of communication.

**A**wards Presentation - at the recent annual Gala night at West Illawarra Club, goalkeeper Dean Anastasiadis won the poll as Players Player of the year as well as the trophy for Player of the Year.



Dean Anastasiadis: Wolves custodian took out the clubs' Player of the Year and Players Player of the Year.

Other awards winners were Greg Sharland for Rookie of the year and Stuart Young acknowledged as top goal marksman. In Youth grade C-Lite Youth Player of the year went to Daniel Aliffi and Leigh Dellis being named top goal scorer.

The Wolves youngsters made the Grand Final against Parramatta Powers, a fine achievement of team, coach Eddie Tesoro only.

**K**iana - the newcomer - after a terrific start defeating last year's Premiers and narrow draw against last season's Grand Finalist, must show character to keep going.

**C**oniston Lions - with 2 wins aer for another title, coached by former Socceroo Adrian Alston.

**W**ollongong Olympic - two wins, one loss, need to keep their nerves if the side well

**K**embawarra - two wins, one shock loss are too good a team with an experienced coach in John Fleming, will pick up points in coming games.

**C**ringila Lions - win, loss, draw, competitive but unpredictable, have to rely on team spirit if they expect a favourable spot on the table.

**B**ulli - one win, two draws, show how tough they are, expecting to do well on the table.

**W**est Illawara - three losses, no points, very disappointing despite a group Albion Park WE with enthusiastic youthful coach Steve Micevski, also convincing scores by Shoalhaven City, Berkeley, Woonona scoring five and six goals. Things will look clearer after round 4 and 5 with front runners to emerge.

**B**arney King's Young Turks - only 16/17 years, training with first grade are Sean Falcon, Peter Lawler, Joel Lockhart (keep-

er) and in Youth Grade recently joined Steve Riley, all hold the key for a great future for Shellharbour City.

If the club aims for Premer League in years to come, these upcoming players according to coach Barney King will be promoted to the higher competition.

### Junior Soccer

- another compliment to the new committee of Shellharbour Junior Soccer Club for organising the great inaugural season launch at the Shellharbour Workers Club - attended by media personality John Warren, reported in Sydney's soccer paper the Australian and British Soccer Weekly, also mentioned on SBS TV.

John Warren addressed the attendance showing his passion for the sport and signed his recently published book - 33 copies were sold and a dozen made available for sale with the Junior Soccer Club. Soccer Club President Zoraif Jovanovski thanked all supporting the function, his newly formed committee, the clubs' sponsors and special guests.

Junior Soccer competition games for all age groups are being played every forthcoming Saturday morning at Barrack Heights Sports field from 8.30 AM on

### SOCER DATES

Round 5 weekend 4.5.02

Kiama v Bulli Albion Park W E

v St Coast Utd

Picton Rnagers v Lysaght Bellambi v Shoalhaven City

v Kemblawarra Fernhill v

Northern United

Wollongong Olympic v Cringila

Lions Helensburgh v Haglands

Woonona v Warilla Wand

Ruse v University



# WC STADIUMS 2002 PART A



The Stadium construction began in 1998, part of the commemoration of Korea's 50th anniversary. Now completed it has over 1600 people visit it every day and is full of the state of the art facilities now associated with new football grounds all around the world.

The shape of the roof is like that of a traditional Korean Kite, and is supposed to symbolise the spirit and culture of Korea. The roof has curved lines on it, as on a traditional Korean house. The illuminated roof has the same soft tone as that of light shining through traditional Korean paper, which a traditional kite is made of. Metal halide lamps project light upward onto the exterior wall of the stadium to give an impression of structural solidity, and blue-coloured filters are used to increase the aesthetic quality. Illuminated indirectly by sodium lamps hung on the poles, the round deck will look like a round tray embracing the grandstand.

The stadium itself is octagonal shaped and has a seating capacity of 64,677 (split up as 61,745 general, 832 VIP and 2100 Press seats). It cost 166 million USD to build. The roof covers 90% of the seating and there is parking capacity of 2,735 vehicles.

Seoul is the capital of South Korea, and has been the capital of Korea for over 600 years. It is surrounded by mountains including Mount Namsan and Hangang. Of course it was the venue for the 1988 Olympic games, and two years before that the Asian games. It has a variety of shopping and theatrical venues as well as numerous traditional Korean events.

#### Stadium Information:

**Location:** Seongsan-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul, Korea  
**Land Area:** 216,712 sq. m  
**Building Area:** 58,747 sq. m

**Total Floor Area:** 150,784 sq. m  
**Number of Floors:** 1 Basement floor, 6 floors  
**Shape:** Rectangle (206m x 243m)  
**Seating Capacity:** 64,677 seats



## 3. Sapporo Dome, Japan

Also nicknamed "Hiroba" (Plaza in English), the Sapporo Dome was completed in June 2001 and is located in Hitsujiyama, on the outskirts of Sapporo (actually 7.5 kms from the town centre) in North Japan. Its capacity is 42,122.

The ground's most prominent feature is its hovering soccer stage allowing the field to be prepared out in the open and then moved inside the all-weather closed arena. The Dome has a 90 metre wide moving wall allowing the field to be moved in and out. The entire lower section of the field is rolled into the Dome on a cushion of air. As it does so, a rotating seat system moves aside before the pitch turns sideways on its axis and the seating areas automatically slide back into place. The entire manoeuvre takes about two hours to complete.

The air inside is kept fresh thanks to a huge air-conditioning unit and a natural ventilation system in summer, whilst in winter the spectators are kept comfortable by a heating system applied especially to the seats. The move to an all weather stadium was because of the climatic restrictions of the area, with much snow falling in the area during winter. The grandstands are a single slope conical shape at 27 degrees, trying to make sure all spectators feel close to the action.

Sapporo itself is the capital of the island of Hokkaido, and was only established 130 years ago. It has a population of 1.8 million people which makes it Japan's fifth largest city. In 1972 it held the Winter Olympics and is well known as a winter wonderland. The route between Sapporo's airport, Chitose, and Tokyo's downtown airport, Haneda, carries the largest number of passengers for any single route in the world.

#### Stadium Information:

**Location:** 1-3 Hitsujiyama, Toyohira-ku, Sapporo City  
**Capacity:** 42,122  
**Parking:** 1,700

**Total floor area:** 306,458 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Closed Arena:** 14,460 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Open Arena:** 18,800 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Height (from arena ground level):** 68 m



Niigata was one of the remotest and inaccessible areas of Japan. It is surrounded by mountains and has a wide variety of geographical contrasts. However the introduction of a high speed train and direct flights to Niigata from overseas has seen many more people come to the area.

Niigata itself is located 300 kms northwest of Tokyo at the mouth of Japan's longest river, the Shinano. The city has a population of approximately 500,000 and boasts the largest port on the Japan Sea coast. Blessed with abundant farmland, Niigata Prefecture is the nation's top producer of rice, tulips and pears, and is a leading source of "sake" (rice wine), watermelons and radishes.

The Stadium that has just been constructed will host the first ever World Cup finals match in Japan, a day after the opening ceremony. The locals have a team to support in the J League division two, Albirex Niigata. The team will now be able to play in a 42,700 all seater stadium once the World Cup is over. It is ten minutes from the railway station and 25 minutes from the local airport.

The new stadium has a translucent white teflon roof which allows in 80% natural light and covers 90% of the seating. As is the want of designers these days every aspect of a new stadium has an added meaning as evidenced by the roof description; "The graceful curves of the stadium roof have been likened to an image of swans alighting on the nearby Toyonogata lagoon - an evocative and appropriate combination of images from the modern world of sport and the ageless world of nature."

And you thought it was just another football ground ... I am just glad the New Den at Millwall in London UK was never built to reflect the local surroundings!

#### Stadium Information:

**Location:** 68 Seigoro, Niigata-city, inside Niigata sports park  
**Scale/Structure:** Steel-frame reinforced concrete structure, five stories  
**Capacity:** 42,700 seats



## 4. Saitama Stadium, Japan

This is Japan's largest football only Stadium, and one of the semi finals of the World Cup will be played here. Its capacity is 63,700 and it will surely be full to the rim when Japan play their opening group fixture at the ground.

Urawa is the capital of this local prefecture and is located 24 kms north of Tokyo. Its local team is the Urawa Red Diamonds who play in the J League. Their young midfielder Shinji Ono is looking to represent Japan in his home town stadium in 2002. As well as the Red Diamonds Omiya Ardija play in the second division of the J League.

The area is on the northern fringe of the greater Tokyo metropolitan area and is a mix of traditional and modern Japan. The area is currently undergoing a reorganisation with three cities being integrated into one, aiming to move some of the core business centres away from central Tokyo. A new railway line and expressway are being built to give better access to this area.

#### Stadium Information:

**Location:** Oazamakanoda-Chinai, Urawa-shi / Saitama-Ken  
**Capacity:** 63,700  
**Parking:** 2,500

**Access:** Located 9 km from the centre of Urawa City / 50 min. by train (Saitama Railway) from JR Tokyo Station to Urawa Misono Station / From Urawa Misono Station to the Stadium, approx. 15 min. Walk.





# GROUP D



**Group D** will be one of the harder groups to predict for apart from Portugal the other 3 teams could turn out to be fairly even. All teams bar South Korea have made semi final appearances in the World Cup finals. Favourites for the group are Portugal despite not being at this stage since 1986. Hosts South Korea are still looking for their first win in the finals so second place should be between Poland and the US, with Poland the more likely to go through. However should they make it their next opponents in the second round will probably be Italy. The much easier route through the latter stages is as winner of this group. None of these teams have played each other in the finals before.

## HEAD TO HEAD PREVIEW

**South Korea v Poland:** If South Korea are going to make it into the next round for the first time they have to win this match. They are at home and emotionally will be on a huge high so they could cause an upset. However they have started slowly in all previous competitions (including a 0-9 loss in their very first finals match) so Poland might justifiably feel confident of gaining the maximum three points.

**USA v Portugal:** Portugal will be looking for a confidence boosting start and should be too strong for the US. They have won their opening fixtures on the two other occasions they have appeared in the finals. The only time the US have done so is in 1930.

**South Korea v USA:** Whoever wins this match will be in a great position to snatch second spot. With the local support Korea could win their first game of the Finals.

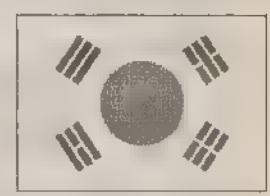
**Poland v Portugal:** This should be the play off for the very vital top position. These European outfits know each other well so it should be a tight tussle. Portugal would be slight favourites, Poland may even be satisfied with a draw.

**Portugal v South Korea:** Portugal v Korea evokes images of 1966 and the famous 5-3 win over Korea, although it was North Korea. Could it be that the home side pulls off another upset, perhaps not of the 1966 magnitude, but upset nonetheless?

**Poland v USA:** Poland are favourites to dismiss the American challenge. This could really be the shootout for second spot should the form go as expected.



# SOUTH KOREA



**H**aving no wins in 14 games is not a proud record for the hosts. Their aim would be to make the second round and there is a chance in this group they can do it.

Perhaps the key is their first half efforts as the records show up until now in the finals South Korea has scored just two goals before half time. They have conceded a total of 22 in that period. (Contrast that to the fact North Korea scored three in the first half of one game alone – that against Portugal in 1966.)

### Achievements in Major Competitions

- Champion Asian Cup 1956, 1960
- Runners Up Asian Cup 1972, 1980, 1988

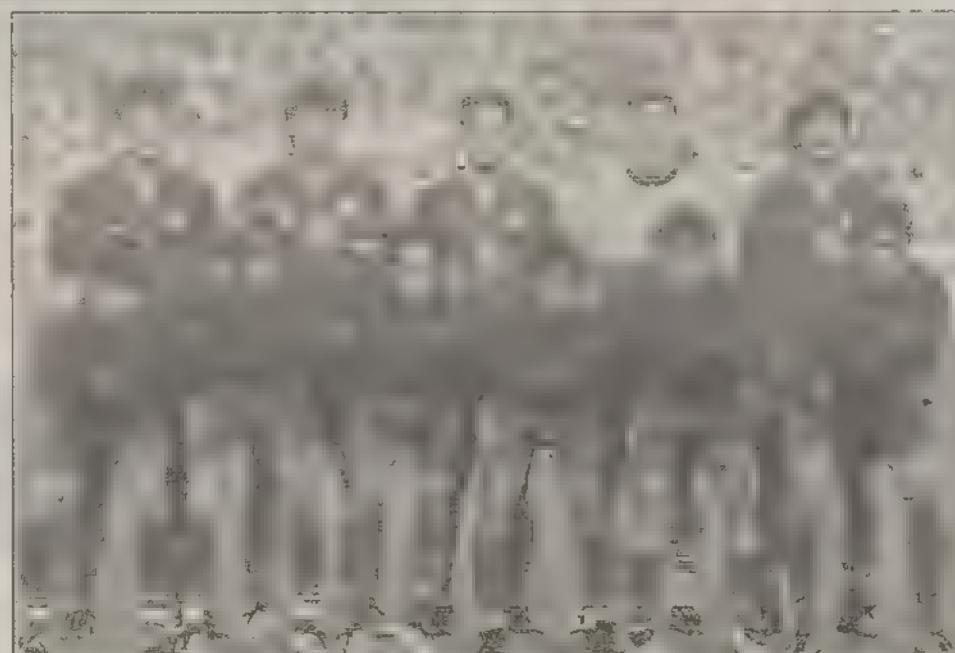
### Qualified: As Hosts

### Schedule

South Korea v Poland Busan 21:20 AEST  
Tuesday 4th June (SBS)

South Korea v USA Daegu 16:00 AEST  
Monday 10th June (SBS)

South Korea v Portugal Incheon 21:20 AEST  
Friday 14th June (SBS)



South Korea Team

**Finals record:**  
South Korea Pld 14 W0 D4 L10 F43  
A11  
(at half time F2 A22)  
Total Points in group stages 4

**A Country Profile:** Republic of Korea  
Population: 46,884,800  
Form of Govt: Republic  
Population density: 476.1 per square km  
Life expectancy: 74.3  
Infant Mortality: 7.6 (per 1000)  
Language: Korean  
Literacy Rate: 97.9%  
Religion: Buddhism 24% Christian 21%  
Economy: Industry 27%, Agriculture 18%, Services 55%

**Odds:**  
\$126 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



# POLAND



In the 1970s and 80s Poland were a regular participant in the finals and were fairly successful at that with two 3rd placings and the other two seeing them make the second round.

Since then they have failed to appear up until now. They have struggled coming into the finals and their recent form includes a 1-2 loss to Romania. However they are at least looking to make the second round.

### Achievements in Major Competitions

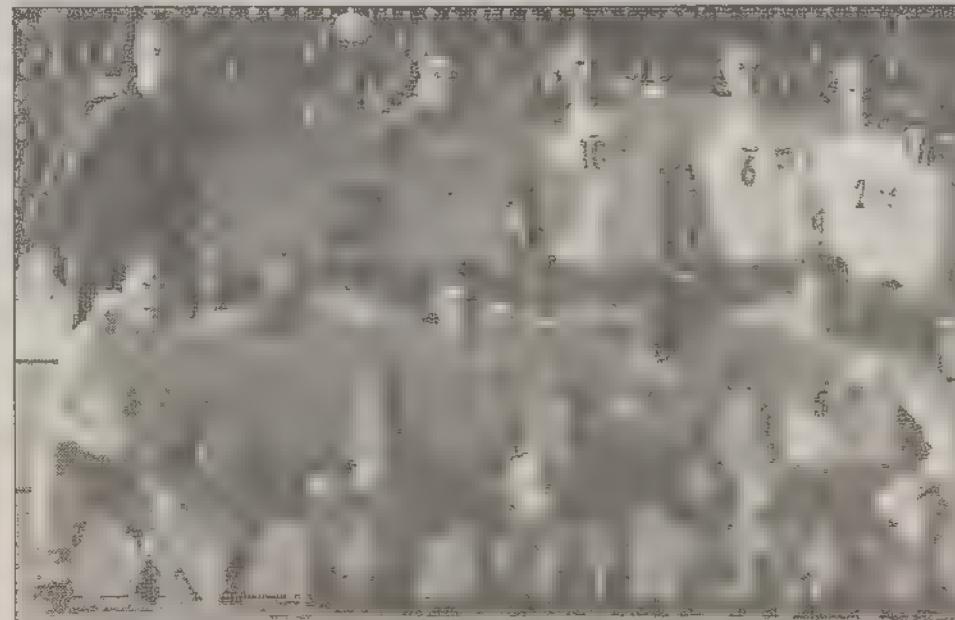
- 3rd 1974 FIFA World Cup
- 3rd 1982 FIFA World Cup
- Champion Olympic Games 1972
- 2nd Olympic Games 1976
- 2nd Olympic Games 1992

### Qualified

Winner of European Group 5 Pld10 W6 D3 L1 F21 A11 Pts 21 (other teams in the group were Ukraine, Belarus, Norway, Wales, and Armenia.)

### Schedule

Poland v South Korea Busan 21:20 AEST  
Tuesday 4th June (SBS)



Poland Team

Poland v Portugal Jeonju 21:20 AEST  
Monday 10th June (SBS)  
Poland v USA Daejon 23:30 AEST  
Friday 14th June (SBS Delayed telecast)

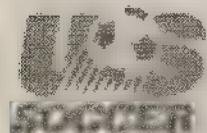
**Finals record:**  
Poland Pld 25 W13 D5 L7 F39 A28  
Total Points in group stages: 23  
(at half time F19 A12)

**A Country Profile:** Republic of Poland  
Population: 38,608,929  
Form of Govt: Republic  
Population density: 123.5 per square km  
Life expectancy: 73.1  
Infant Mortality: 12.8 (per 1000)  
Language: Polish  
Literacy Rate: 99%  
Religion: Roman Catholic 95%  
Economy: Industry 32%, Agriculture 28%, Services 40%

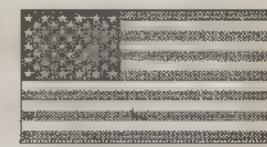
**Odds:**  
\$101 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



# GROUP D



# USA



The US have now made it to the four finals series in succession. During that period they have made it to the second round once, that at home in 1994.

To make it this time they will have to defeat Poland and South Korea.

Coach Bruce Arena is the most successful coach in the US at present. Can he bring that success on to this big stage?

#### Achievements in Major Competitions

- Semi Final 1990 FIFA World Cup Uruguay
- Champion 1994 Concacaf Gold Cup
- Runners Up 1993 Concacaf Gold Cup
- 3rd 1999 FIFA Confederations Cup Mexico

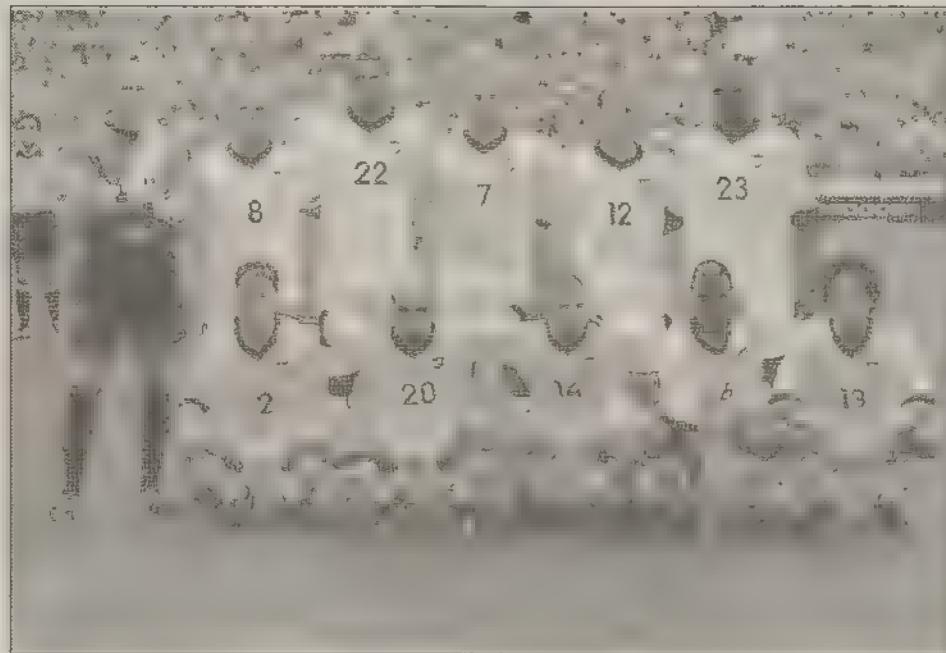
#### Qualified:

Third Place in CONCACAF final qualifying group.

Pld 10 W5 D2 L3 F11 A8 Pts 17 (others Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago)

#### Schedule:

USA v Portugal Suwon 18:50 AEST  
Wednesday 5th June (SBS)



**USA Team**

USA v South Korea Daegu 16:00 AEST  
Monday 10th June (SBS)

USA v Poland Daejon 23:30 AEST  
Friday 14th June (SBS Delayed telecast)

#### Finals record:

USA Pld17 W4 D1 L12 F18 A38  
Total Points in group stages: 10  
(at half time F8 A14)

#### A Country Profile: United States of America

Population: 272,639,608

Form of Govt: Federal Republic

Population density: 29.1 per square km

Life expectancy: 76.2

Infant Mortality: 6.3 (per 1000)

Language: English

Literacy Rate: 99%

Religion: Protestant 56%

Economy: Industry 18%, Agriculture 3%, Services

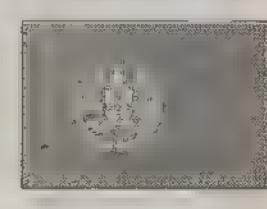
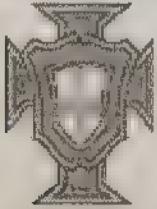
79%

#### Odds:

\$126 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



# PORTUGAL



Portugal in 1966 almost became World beaters. In 1986 they returned to the finals and despite a win over England were bundled out after the first round.

This time they come into the finals ranked fourth and confident of the tournament turning out more like '66 than '86. Their youngsters of the early 90's have finally got the nation back onto the world stage and now there is a real prospect of them making their way to the semi finals once more.

#### Achievements in Major Competitions

- 3rd 1966 FIFA World Cup
- 3rd UEFA European Championship 1984
- 3rd UEFA European Championship 2000

#### Qualified:

Winners European Group B  
Pld10 W7 D3 L0 F33 A7 Pts24  
(against Ireland, Netherlands, Estonia, Cyprus and Andorra)

#### Schedule:

Portugal v USA Suwon 18:50 AEST  
Wednesday 5th June (SBS)

Portugal v Poland Jeonju 21:20 AEST  
Monday 10th June (SBS)



**Portugal Team**

Portugal v South Korea Incheon 21:20 AEST  
Friday 14th June (SBS)

Finals record:  
Pld9 W6 D0 L3 F19 A12  
Total Points in group stages 8  
(at half time F8 A7)

#### A Country Profile: Portuguese Republic

Population: 9,918,040

Form of Govt: Republic

Population density: 107.7 per square km

Life expectancy: 75.9

Infant Mortality: 6.7 (per 1000)

Language: Portuguese

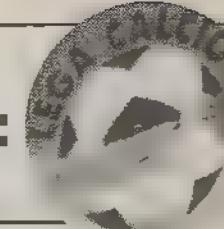
Literacy Rate: 89.6%

Religion: Roman Catholic 97%

Economy: Industry 25%, Agriculture 18%, Services 57%

#### Odds:

\$15 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



## RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

**O**nce again here we go. Last week we decided to write off Roberto Baggio's World Cup chances because of injury, but against Fiorentina he scored twice in his comeback game.

Not another piece on Roberto Baggio you may be saying, but this is no ordinary story. He just keeps coming back.

Last week Giovanni Trapattoni said that he would definitely not select him because he has been out of the game for so long. Next Monday May 6, Trapattoni will announce his squad and once again the media will focus on Baggio.

Vieri, Delvecchio, Del Piero, Inzaghi and Montella will be the strikers and Totti and De Rossi will be the attacking midfielders, playmakers. That leaves no room for Baggio in the Italian squad.

This is the popular logic given Trapattoni's stance. But it is there really no room for this player? Is he not considered one of the best 23 in Italy?

Baggio at 36 in fact has comeback for Brescia after a serious injury because he desperately wants a fourth World Cup. However, who is selecting Baggio over a younger player has opportunity. Realistically he will force his way into the starting line-up.

Both questions would have to be answered in the negative. It would appear that Vieri, Montella, Del Piero and Totti will fight to fill three starting positions and the other one will be on the bench.

Baggio although would still offer value for the team. His experience alone adds up to 55 appearances and 27 goals for Italy. Furthermore, he is determined to be selected. The others just assume they are going but he desperately wants to be there. It is for this reason only he should be selected on Monday.

Baggio has constantly fought against the tide. Injuries have plagued a major part of his career. He has always come back and dared to dream again.

In 1985 playing for Vicenza, he suffered a serious left knee injury. He is out for nine months and then returns.

In December 1986 he injures his right knee at training for Fiorentina. He is out for another five months and considers giving the game away but then returns again.

In November 1994, four months after that penalty miss in Los Angeles playing for Juventus he again injures his right knee. Another four months out but yet another comeback.

In October 2001 a further left knee injury and another three months at home. And lastly, 31st of January this year in a Coppa Italia match month, knee injury and 77 days later, in record time he returns.

So is he too old to go? The answer is clearly no. Even at 35 his age should be no barrier. One need is the exploits of Roger Milla for Cameroon, Italia 90 where he was 38 years of age.

There are no older or young players in football just good and bad ones. I believe the great Liverpool Manager the late Bill Shankly own his one. Baggio is up to the special category of great ones.

He could well be the Milla of Italy. An impact player who comes on to inspire the team. Mind you he would not let you down either if he started. The World Cup needs personality players and will be the poorer if he is not there.

However, clearly he is as good as anyone and for this reason alone he should be there. Sure he would have to be in a squad featuring the best 23 players for Italy. That is not the case then I must be a very bad judge of football.

★★★

**S**erie B side Empoli has received a Euro 600,000 fine but were given a point penalty for the doping scandal. Briefly, the club owner Francesco Ammarante, who has since been sacked by Empoli, sent an player to the after game doping tests rather than the regular players.

People then suspected that Empoli had something to do with it but the club always denied it. The final verdict is the hefty fine for the club and the doctor has also received a four-year ban.

Empoli are on course for a Serie A spot and some of their rivals would have been hoping that they lost some points. Salernitana is one such rival. They are currently in sixth place just off the pace. The coach these days is none other than Zdenek Zeman, the former Bologna, Lazio, Roma and Napoli coach.

Zeman is the man who a few years ago said that leading Serie A players were using illegal performance enhancing substances. Most wrote him off as crazy at the time but he was vindicated in hindsight. If Italian football is free of substance abuse today then it is in no small way thanks to the outspoken Zeman.

"So it was interesting to hear Zeman's comments on the Empoli affair. "It seems to me that the rules are fairly clear but they can't be applied," he said.

"How can a club be held responsible for its spectators, people they don't even know, yet they are not responsible for their own employees?" he concluded. Meanwhile Empoli will be in next year's Serie A and Zeman will not.

## INTER STAY A POINT CLEAR WITH ONE ROUND REMAINING

**INTER** 2  
**PIACENZA** 1

**A**t the San Siro, Inter Milan swept 9-man Piacenza aside 3-1 courtesy of second half goals from South American aces Alvaro Recoba and Ronaldo.

Colombian defender Ivan Cordoba gave the Nerazzurri a sixth minute lead but Francelino Matuzalem levelled the score on 36 minutes.

The visiting side did well to repel the home side but the send off of Vincenzo Sommese for his second caution on 68 minutes signalled the end of the resistance, led the end of the resistance of the send off and Brazilian star Ronaldo made it three in the 79th minute.

Matuzalem received his marching orders a minute after the final goal as Piacenza self destructed.

**ROMA** 5  
**CHIEVO** 0

**A**t the Stadio Olimpico, AS Roma hammered Chievo 5-0 thanks to a Montella triple.

The Azzurri goalpoacher scored in the 25th and 33rd minutes to put the host two-up at the interval and clinched his hat-trick on 51 minutes from the penalty spot.

Emerson extended the advantage on 73 minutes before Antonio Cassano - who had been on the field for just four minutes as a replacement for Montella - added the final nail in Chievo's coffin.

The Verona side has now slipped back to sixth after being in the top five for almost the whole season.

**JUVENTUS** 5  
**BRESCIA** 0

**A** David Trezeguet treble and two goals from Alessandro Del Piero ensured there was no happy return to the Delle Alpi for Brescia forward Roberto Baggio.

The relegation-threatened visitors held their own for most of the match, despite falling behind to a Trezeguet strike on eight minutes, and only dropped their guard for the final quarter after Daniele Bonera was dis-

missed.

Brescia coach Carlo Mazzone was sent off after only minutes of the clash for insulting referee Salvatore Racalbuto.

**BOLOGNA** 2  
**LAZIO** 0

**B**ologna leapfrogged Lazio, one of their rivals for the last Champions' League spot, with a 2-0 home win at the Renato Dall'Ara Stadium.

The visiting side did well to repel the home side but the send off of Vincenzo Sommese for his second caution on 68 minutes signalled the end of the resistance, led the end of the resistance of the send off and Brazilian star Ronaldo made it three in the 79th minute.

Veteran striker Giuseppe Signori put Bologna ahead on 51 minutes before Fabio Pecchia sealed the points in the 88th minute despite Giulio Falcone's send off twenty minutes from time.

With four teams vying for the final ECL spot it has all come down to next week's final matches.

Milan plays host to relegated Lecce, Bologna is away at relegation threatened Brescia, Chievo entertains Atalanta while Lazio faces league leader Inter in the match of the round.

**VERONA** 1  
**MILAN** 2

**A**C Milan has edged ahead of the pack in the race for fourth spot and the final Champions League berth for next season following its 2-1 victory over Verona at the Bentegodi Stadium.

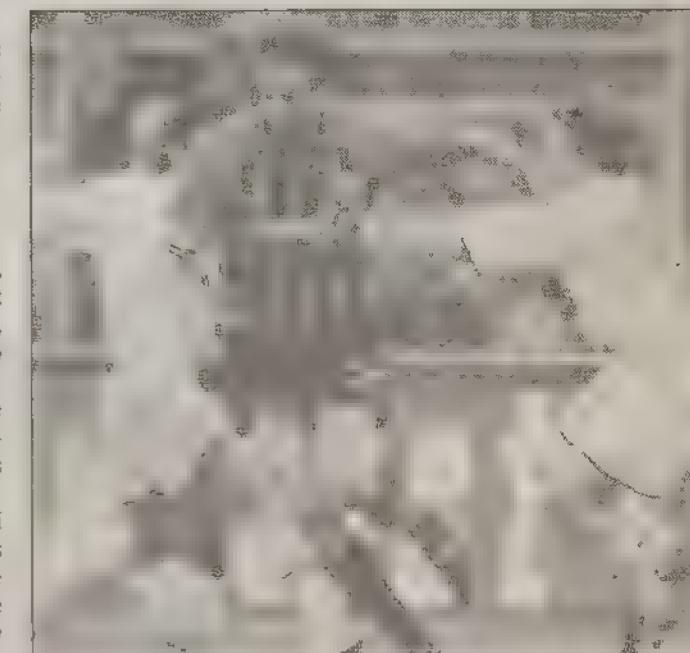
Romanian Adrian Mutu gave Verona a 27th minute advantage but second half goals from Italians Filippo Inzaghi (65th minute) and Andrea Pirlo (81st minute) moved Milan up to 52 points.

**LECCE** 1  
**UDINESE** 2

**U**dinese also celebrated victory with a last-minute goal, which proved to be the most crucial of their campaign.

David di Michele put his side ahead at Lecce, but Guillermo Giacomazzi levelled on 69 minutes and the doomed home side looked set to hold on for a point until Di Michele calmly stroked home from the spot.

Even if Udinese lose to Juventus next week and are caught on 40 points by Brescia, Verona or Piacenza, Giampiero Ventura's side



Atalanta's Cristiano Dori is sandwiched by two Perugia opponents.

will stay up courtesy of a better record against their direct rivals.

That leaves one team from Brescia, Piacenza and Verona to join Venezia, Fiorentina and Lecce in Serie B next season.

**VENEZIA** 1  
**TORINO** 1

**T**orino guaranteed safety with an injury-time Fabio Galante equaliser at Venezia, despite missing two penalties.

Marco Ferrante hit the post with his first on 54 minutes, then put another too close to goalkeeper Rossi on 89 minutes.

The match ended with scuffles as Torino fans invaded the pitch, where they were met by their Venezia counterparts. Police took several minutes to separate the factions and restore order.

**ATALANTA** 2  
**PERUGIA** 1

**W**ith both sides safe from the drop and too far away from chasing a Euro berth, Atalanta defeated

**FIORENTINA** 1  
**PARMA** 2

**A**t the bottom of the table, Parma secured its survival after a Marco Di Vaio in the final ten minutes sealed victory at Fiorentina.

Adriano gave the Viola a fourth minute lead, which it held on to for 78 minutes.

But Italian international Di Vaio equalised on 82 minutes and then broke the hearts of the homefans with a stoppage time winner to send Parma four clear of Brescia who is in the final relegation spot.

Fiorentina will end the season second from bottom irrespective of its final game result.

Atalanta 2 Perugia 1, Bologna 2 Lazio 0, Fiorentina 1 Parma 2, Inter 3 Piacenza 1, Juventus 5 Brescia 0, Lecce 1 Udinese 2, Roma 5 Chievo 0, Venezia 1 Torino 1, Verona 1 Milan 2.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pts
1. Inter	33	20	9	4	60-31	69
2. Juventus	33	19	11	3	62-23	68
3. Roma	33	18	13	2	57-24	67
4. Milan	33	13	13	7	44-33	52
5. Bologna	33	15	7	11	40-37	52
6. Chievo	33	13	12	8	55-51	51
7. Lazio	33	13	11	9	46-35	50
8. Atalanta	33	12	9	12	40-48	45
9. Torino	33	10	13	10	37-38	43
10. Perugia	33	12	7	14	36-46	43
11. Parma	33	11	8	14	41-46	41
12. Udinese	33	11	7	15	41-50	40
13. Piacenza	33	10	9	14	46-43	39
14. Verona	33	11	6	16	41-50	39
15. Brescia	33	8	13	12	40-52	37
16. Lecce	33	6	10	17	36-53	28
17. Fiorentina	33	5	7	21	29-61	22
18. Venezia	33	3	9	21	29-59	18



Lazio's Lucas Martin Castronan and Bologna's Massimo Tarantino in action during their Serie A match.

### This Week

May 5, 2002

Brescia - Bologna  
Chievo - Atalanta  
Lazio - Inter  
Milan - Lecce  
Parma - Venezia  
Perugia - Fiorentina  
Piacenza - Verona  
Torino - Roma  
Udinese - Juventus



# ENGLAND



## UNITED MOVE TO SECOND AS SPURS DOWN LIVERPOOL

**TOTTENHAM 1  
LIVERPOOL 0**

Liverpool's hopes of taking the FA Premiership title took a massive blow as they lost 1-0 at Tottenham Hotspur.

The defeat - Liverpool's first in 16 league games - leaves Gérard Houllier's side four points adrift of league leaders Arsenal FC with just two games left to play. The only goal of the game came after 41 minutes when Darren Anderton's deep cross was nudged back across the face of goal by Simon Davies for Gustavo Poyet to jab the ball past Jerzy Dudek.

**IPSWICH TOWN 0  
MAN UTD 1**

In Saturday's late game, a first-half penalty from Ruud van Nistelrooij saw Manchester United FC win 1-0 at Ipswich Town to keep their title hopes alive and push their opponents into even deeper relegation troubles.

The Dutch striker slammed his spot-kick low past goalkeeper Andy Marshall and the visitors could have doubled their lead when Roy Keane's long-range shot after 85 minutes rattled the crossbar.

**ASTON VILLA 2  
SOUTHAMPTON 1**

England striker Darius Vassell grabbed a first-half double to help Aston Villa to a 2-1 win against Southampton.

He netted his 12th goal of the season with a looping header on eight minutes and it was 2-0 three minutes before the interval as his low, first-time shot from the edge beat the goalkeeper. James Beattie sparked hopes of a Southampton comeback with a 52nd minute strike.

**NEWCASTLE UTD 3  
WEST HAM 1**

Newcastle United, who qualified for the Champions' League in mid-week, came from a goal down to beat West Ham United at a jubilant St James' Park.

Jermain Defoe turned home his 14th goal of the season on 20 minutes as West Ham dominated the opening half, but Alan Shearer was sent clear by Laurent Robert to level shortly

before the break and the Magpies did not look back.

Tresor Lomano Lua-Lua made it 2-1 to Newcastle on 53 minutes, before Robert raced on to Nobby Solano's pass and hooked a shot against the woodwork which he followed up himself to make the game safe.

**MIDDLESBROUGH 0  
CHELSEA 2**

Chelsea beat Middlesbrough at the Riverside despite the absence of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (injured in the warm-up) and Eidur Gudjohnsen (dropped).

Carlton Cole, the 18-year-old replacement for Hasselbaink, opened the scoring on 38 minutes and Boudewijn Zenden pushed his claims for an FA Cup final starting place by racing clear to grab his first goal since December and make the final score 2-0.

**CHARLTON 2  
SUNDERLAND 2**

Sunderland continue to sweat over their FA Premiership status after failing to hold on for victory at Charlton Athletic.

The visitors got off to the worst possible start when Jason Euell volleyed Charlton ahead after just 63 seconds. However, the lead lasted less than a minute as Republic of Ireland midfield player Kevin Kilbane took the ball in his stride before calmly slotting past Dean Kiely.

The travelling fans were celebrating again when Kevin Phillips headed in Jason



Tottenham's Terry Sheringham holds off Liverpool's Dietmar Hamann during their 1-nil victory at White Hart Lane.

McAteer's free-kick after eleven minutes but just as Sunderland looked to have done enough to pick up three vital points, they failed to clear their lines and allowed Kevin Lisbie to steer the ball home with an acrobatic bicycle kick on 82 minutes.

**FULHAM 0  
LEICESTER 0**

Fulham's last game at Craven Cottage ended in a spirited goalless draw against relegated Leicester City.

Fulham wasted a host of chances with some woeful shooting but in truth deserved nothing more than a draw from this game.

Leicester City manager Micky Adams paid tribute to

the Fulham fans who gave him a standing ovation at Craven Cottage during their celebratory goodbye to their 105-year home.

Adams returned five years after being sacked as Fulham manager by ambitious chairman Mohamed Al Fayed.

Adams had kept Fulham in the Football League before winning promotion to the Second Division in 1997.

**EVERTON 1  
BLACKBURN 2**

A second-half diving header from former Manchester United striker Andy Cole gave Blackburn a deserved 2-1 victory against Everton at Goodison Park.

Matt Jansen gave Rovers a first-half lead only for Nick Chadwick to equalise just after the break. Both sides were playing for pride only, having eased fears of relegation earlier this month.

**DERBY COUNTY 0  
LEEDS UTD 1**

Leeds gave relegated Derby a miserable send off in their last home Premiership match of the season at Pride Park.

A lobbed 16th-minute effort from midfielder Lee Bowyer was the difference between the two sides, as John Gregory's Rams slumped to their seventh straight defeat.



Charlton's Dean Kiely cannot stop Sunderland's second goal scored by Kevin Phillips.

### PREMIER LEAGUE

Everton 1 Blackburn Rovers 2, Ipswich Town 0 Manchester Utd 1, Fulham 0 Leicester City 0, Middlesbrough 0 Chelsea 2, Newcastle United 3 West Ham United 1, Aston Villa 2 Southampton 1, Charlton Athletic 2 Sunderland 2, Derby County 0 Leeds United 1, Tottenham Hotspur 1 Liverpool 0, Playing on Monday, April 29: Bolton Wanderers v Arsenal

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pts
1. Arsenal	35	23	9	3	72-33	78
2. Manchester Utd	36	24	4	8	87-44	76
3. Liverpool	36	22	8	6	58-27	74
4. Newcastle United	37	21	8	8	73-49	71
5. Chelsea	37	17	13	7	65-35	64
6. Leeds United	37	17	12	8	52-37	63
7. Tottenham Hotspur	37	14	8	15	48-51	50
8. West Ham United	37	14	8	15	46-56	50
9. Aston Villa	37	11	14	12	43-46	47
10. Middlesbrough	37	12	9	16	35-46	45
11. Fulham	37	10	14	13	36-41	44
12. Blackburn Rovers	36	11	10	15	49-47	43
13. Everton	37	11	10	16	42-53	43
14. Charlton Athletic	37	10	13	14	38-49	43
15. Southampton	37	11	9	17	43-53	42
16. Bolton Wanderers	36	9	13	14	43-58	40
17. Sunderland	37	10	9	18	28-50	39
18. Ipswich Town	37	9	9	19	41-59	36
19. Derby County	37	8	5	24	32-62	29
20. Leicester City	37	4	13	20	28-63	25

### FIRST DIVISION

#### SEMI-FINALS - FIRST LEG

Birmingham 1 Millwall 1

Norwich 3 Wolverhampton 1

### SECOND DIVISION

#### SEMI-FINALS, FIRST LEG

Huddersfield 0 Brentford 0

Stoke 1 Cardiff 2

### NEXT WEEK'S

#### FIXTURES

\* FA CUP Final.

SATURDAY MAY 4

CHELSEA

V

ARSENAL.

SUNDAY MAY 5

LIVERPOOL

V

BLACKBURN

# WORLD

Spanish Primera Liga

## VALENCIA MOVE CLEAR OF DISAPPOINTING MADRID

**P**RIVATE Valencia took a giant step towards their first title since 1971 as they came from behind with ten men to beat Espanyol 2-1 in the Mestalla on Saturday night.

Raul Tamudo's tremendous scoring record in the Che stadium continued as he fired home a 31st-minute penalty for Espanyol. And the home side looked to be in real trouble when Amedeo Carboni was sent off for violent conduct a minute later.

But the outstanding Ruben Baraja swept forward to score a brace in the second half, hitting the net with goals on 68 and 79 minutes to put Valencia four points clear at the top with only two games remaining.

Real Madrid's title challenge is now all but over as they fell to a crushing 3-0 defeat at Real Sociedad.

Darko Kovacevic opened the scoring from the spot for Sociedad before late goals from Dmitri Khoklov and De Paula sealed the win that should ensure the Basque side's survival.

Ivan Helguera's clumsy foul in

### THIS WEEK

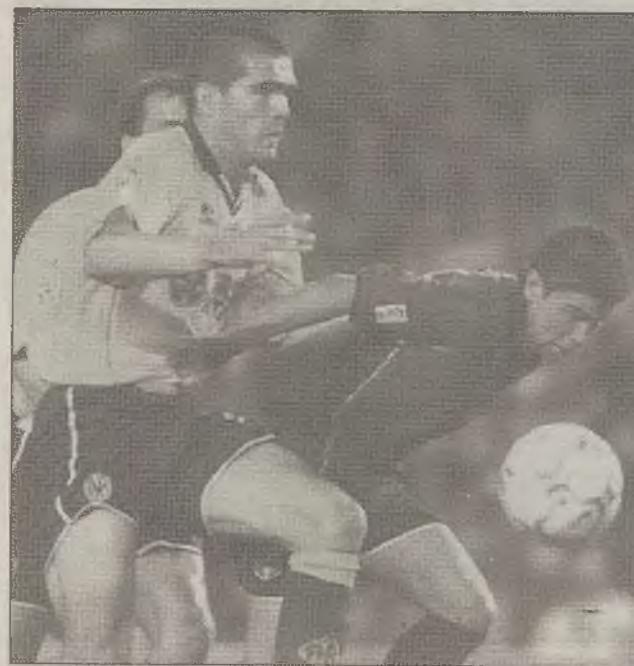
May 5, 2002

Barcelona - Espanyol  
Villarreal - Zaragoza  
Celta - Sevilla  
Alaves - R. Vallecana  
Athletic - Osasuna  
Las Palmas - Tenerife  
Valladolid - R. Sociedad  
R. Madrid - Mallorca  
Betis - Deportivo  
Malaga - Valencia

Deportivo 2 Malaga 2, Osasuna 3 Las Palmas 2, Mallorca 1 Betis 3, Tenerife 1 Valladolid 5, Zaragoza 0 Celta 1, Sevilla 2 Alaves 0, Rayo Vallecana 4 Athletic 2, Real Sociedad 3 Real 0, Valencia 2 Espanyol 1, Barcelona 4 Villarreal 1.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Valencia	36	19	12	5	47-27	69
2. Real	36	19	8	9	69-41	65
3. Deportivo	35	18	7	10	57-39	61
4. Barcelona	36	17	9	10	62-36	60
5. Celta	36	16	12	8	63-43	60
6. Betis	36	15	14	7	42-29	59
7. Alaves	36	16	3	17	40-43	51
8. Malaga	35	12	13	10	40-39	49
9. Athletic	36	13	10	13	50-63	49
10. Valladolid	36	13	9	14	43-53	48
11. Sevilla	36	12	11	13	48-39	47
12. Espanyol	36	13	8	15	46-52	47
13. Rayo Vallecana	36	11	10	15	44-52	43
14. Real Sociedad	36	12	7	17	44-52	43
15. Osasuna	36	10	11	15	35-47	41
16. Villarreal	36	10	10	16	44-53	40
17. Las Palmas	36	9	12	15	39-48	39
18. Mallorca	36	10	9	17	38-51	39
19. Zaragoza	36	9	9	18	33-51	36
20. Tenerife	36	9	8	19	29-55	35

Photo: AP/Wide World



Barcelona's Javier Saviola and Villarreal's Unai Vergara tussle with each other to win the ball.

Depor took the lead through Diego Tristan with 13 minutes to go.

However, Dely Valdes brought the scores level again from the penalty spot in the 81st minute to leave Depor seven points behind the leaders Valencia with two games remaining.

The home side's disappointing night was confounded by the dismissal of Naybet in the closing stages.

Jesuli scored the only goal eight minutes after the break as the Galicians finally broke through in a game short on opportunities.

Full-time brought a torrent of whistles from the home fans after a dismal display by Zaragoza, who appear to have given up hope of staying in the top flight.

Meanwhile, Deportivo La Coruna dropped out of the title race as they could only draw 2-2 with Malaga at the Riazor.

Noureddine Naybet equalised Dario Silva's early strike before

Elvir Bolic doubled Rayo's lead on 53 minutes before the Basque Country side pulled back into the game through Josu Urrutia six minutes later.

Michel added the Vallecas' third to kill the game off a minute before both sides were reduced to ten men as Jean Francois Hernandez and Ismael Urzuaiz were sent off for violent conduct.

Sergio Corino emphasised Rayo's dominance as he completed their tally from the spot with ten minutes remaining to make Santiago Ezquerro's late strike no more than a consolation.

Tenerife's brave fight against relegation is almost over after they were hammered 5-1 at home by a rampant Valladolid.

Fernando Sales and Luis Garcia both scored twice for the visitors and Chema added the fifth.

Bruno Marioni netted a consolation midway through the second half, but the defeat sees them stranded at the bottom with little hope left of salvation.

Osasuna jumped out of the bottom three after they beat a persistent Las Palmas 3-2 in El Sadar.

Pablo Lago gave the Canary

Islanders a surprise lead on 24 minutes, but the home side hit back with two goals before the break from Ivan Rosado and Francisco Punal.

Luis Garcia Tevenet then drew Las Palmas level from the penalty spot with 14 minutes remaining. But Osasuna had one last trick up their sleeve and they snatched all three points when Pablo Contreras scored on 84 minutes to seal victory.

Mallorca slumped into the bottom three after they were convincingly beaten 3-1 by Real Betis who remain hot on the heels of Celta Vigo and Barcelona for the final Champions' League place.

Roberto Peragon gave the home side the lead on 18 minutes, but it was not until the second half that the game took off.

Elvir Bolic doubled Rayo's lead on 53 minutes before the Basque Country side pulled back into the game through Josu Urrutia six minutes later.

But it was not until early in the second half before the visitors' added to their tally when Joao Tomas put them two ahead.

Gabriel Amato then scored a third to kill the game off as a contest and make Albert Luque's 90th minute strike irrelevant.

Victor scored either side of half-time as Seville won their mid-table battle against Alaves 2-0 in the Sanchez Pizjuan. Pablo was sent off on the hour for the visitors, but the game was beyond them by then.



Valencia's Miroslav Djukic contests for the ball with Espanyol's Raul Tamudo

## WORLD LEAGUES

### DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Vitesse 4 Willem II 2, Twente 2 Utrecht 0, Roda 1 RKC 0, AZ 5 NEC 0, Groningen 2 De Graafschap 0, NAC 3 Fortuna 1, Ajax 2 Den Bosch 0, PSV 3 Sparta 0, Feyenoord 3 Heerenveen 2.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Ajax	33	21	7	5	71-34	70
2. PSV	33	20	7	6	75-30	67
3. Feyenoord	33	19	6	8	68-29	63
4. Vitesse	33	16	12	5	43-31	60
5. Heerenveen	33	17	8	8	57-27	59
6. NAC	33	15	8	10	55-52	53
7. Utrecht	33	14	8	11	60-51	50
8. RKC	33	13	6	14	46-42	45
9. NEC	33	13	6	14	38-57	45
10. Willem II	33	10	12	11	54-61	42
11. Twente	33	10	11	12	41-41	41
12. AZ	33	11	7	15	42-45	40
13. Roda	33	11	7	15	33-45	40
14. De Graafschap	33	10	6	17	41-53	36
15. Groningen	33	10	6	17	40-59	36
16. Den Bosch	33	8	9	16	40-54	33
17. Sparta	33	4	11	18	26-75	23
18. Fortuna	33	3	7	23	27-71	16

### BELGIAN EERSTEKLASSE

Beveren 0 La Louviere 3, Westerlo 0 Genk 0, Mouscron 2 Lierse 0, Standard 0 Gent 1, Antwerp 2 Germinal 3, Sint-Truiden 5 Brugge 3, RWDM 4 Aalst 3, Lokeren 0 Anderlecht 1, Charleroi 1 Lommel 3.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Genk	33	20	11	2	82-40	71
2. Brugge	33	21	4	8	72-41	67
3. Anderlecht	33	17	12	4	68-37	63
4. Gent	33	16	10	7	59-46	58
5. Mouscron	33	17	5	11	68-38	56
6. Standard	33	15	11	7	56-37	56
7. Lokeren	33	15	9	9	40-30	54
8. Sint-Truiden	33	16	4	13	51-46	52
9. Germinal	33	10	16	7	64-50	46
10. RWDM	33	12	5	16	46-56	41
11. La Louviere	33	11	8	14	38-52	41
12. Charleroi	33	11	6	16	39-59	39
13. Lommel	33	10	8	15	53-65	38
14. Westerlo	33	9	9	15	48-57	36
15. Lierse	33	8	8	17	51-255	32
16. Antwerp	33	7	10	16	47-64	31
17. Aalst	33	4	8	21	31-72	20
18. Beveren	33	2	8	23	30-88	14

### FRENCH CHAMPIONATE

Bordeaux 0 Olympique (L) 1, Troyes 3 Bastia 0, Lens 4 Guingamp 1, Lorient 2 Olympique (M) 2, Monaco 1 Auxerre 1, Montpellier 3 Nantes 0, Paris Saint Germain 2 Metz 0, Rennes 1 Sedan 0, Sochaux 0 Lille 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Lens	33	18	10	5	54-27	64
2. Olympique (L)	33					

# WORLD

## SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

### CELTIC CRACK THE TON WHILE LIVINGSTONE SECURE UEFA CUP SPOT

Rangers warmed up for next week's Scottish Cup final with a 2-0 home win over Aberdeen on Saturday.

Neil McCann gave Rangers the lead on 41 minutes, before captain Barry Ferguson doubled the lead after the break on his comeback from injury.

Rangers stretch their lead to a mammoth 29 points between themselves in second place and Aberdeen in third. Livingston, who meet Dunfermline on Sunday, can still catch the Dons.

Meanwhile, struggling Motherwell secured a 4-1 victory at Kilmarnock in Terry Butcher's first match in charge. The former England skipper saw his side score three times in four second-half minutes just a few days after replacing Eric Black in the Fir Park hot-seat.

Derek Adams gave the away side the lead on 21 minutes before Tommy Johnson levelled for Killie on 68 minutes with his fifth goal in five games.

James McFadden restored Motherwell's lead on 70 minutes and further goals from Stuart Elliott (72) and Stephen Pearson (74) completed the victory.

Hibernian conceded a late equaliser at home to Dundee as their Easter Road clash ended 2-2.

Derek Townsley gave the hosts the lead on 15 minutes, but Fabian Caballero (33) soon hit back for Dundee. Gary O'Connor restored the lead for Hibs on 76 minutes, before Steven Milne struck back for the away side with two minutes left.

Dundee United and St Johnstone played out a 0-0 draw at Tannadice.

Livingston crowned a superb debut season in the Scottish Premier League by clinching a place in the UEFA Cup after a thrilling 4-1 home win over Dunfermline on Sunday.

The celebrations were in full flow at Almondvale after Livingston pipped Hearts for a place in Europe next season. Stuart Lovell nodded them in front on 34 minutes after meeting Barry Wilson's corner from the left at the near post.

Dunfermline, however, fought back determinedly and equalised through Jason Dair just before the break. But a strong showing in the second half was rewarded with a double strike from Davide Xausa and a fourth from Francisco Quino.

In the day's other match, Scottish champions Celtic thumped Hearts 4-1 at Tynecastle to take their points total to an impressive 100.

With a second-string side on the park, the Bhoys still proved too good for their host.

Simon Lynch gave Martin O'Neill's side a 12th minute advantage before Ricardo Fuller levelled the score in the 33rd minutes.

Lynch restored the lead for his side four minutes before the break and a second half brace from Sean Maloney ensured the comfortable win.

Celtic has recorded 32 wins from its 37 SPL games and has only lost once in a thoroughly dominant performance.

**Livingston 4 Dunfermline 1, Hearts 1 Celtic 4, Dundee United 0 St. Johnstone 0, Hibernian 2, Dundee 2, Kilmarnock 1, Motherwell 4, Rangers 2 Aberdeen 0.**

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Celtic	37	32	4	1	93-18	100
2. Rangers	37	25	9	3	81-26	84
3. Aberdeen	37	16	7	14	51-48	55
4. Livingston	37	15	10	12	47-45	55
5. Hearts	37	14	6	17	50-54	48
6. Kilmarnock	37	13	9	15	42-52	48
7. Dundee United	37	12	9	16	36-37	45
8. Dundee	37	12	8	17	40-53	44
9. Dunfermline	37	12	8	17	40-63	44
10. Hibernian	37	9	11	17	50-56	38
11. Motherwell	37	10	7	20	47-68	37
12. St. Johnstone	37	5	6	26	24-61	21

## GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

### DORTMUND LEAPFROG LEVERKUSEN AT TOP OF BUNDESLIGA

Borussia Dortmund beat Hamburg to replace Bayer Leverkusen at the top of the Bundesliga. The Champions' League hopefuls were sensational beaten by FC Nuremberg, who guaranteed their top-flight survival and sent down Freiburg, who lost at Cologne, with victory.

Dortmund, 4-3 winners at Hamburg in a match that saw both sides reduced to ten men, now lead the table by a point from Leverkusen with Bayern Munich a point further back following their 1-0 win away to Wolfsburg.

So for the third year in succession, the Bundesliga will be settled on the final day of the season.

Hamburg defender Ingo Hertzsch was sent off on 34 minutes and Dortmund made the most of their man advantage when Amoroso stroked home the resulting penalty moments later.

Tomas Rosicky doubled Dortmund's advantage two minutes after that, but Hamburg forced themselves back into the match when BVB defender Christian Worms was sent off three minutes from the break, allowing Raphael Wicky to fire home the resulting spot-kick.

Amoroso struck his second of the afternoon mid-way through the second half to restore his side's two goal cushion, only for Hamburg to pull within one through Nico-Jan Hoogma with ten minutes to play.

Jan Koller's late strike made sure of the points, although Hamburg set up a nervous finale when Eric Meijer struck in the final minute.

Meanwhile, Bayer, whose temperament had been questioned by Bayern goalkeeper Oliver Kahn during the week, lost for the second week in a row.

Germany's nearly men, who face Manchester United in the second leg of their Champions' League semi-final on Tuesday, were undone by a spirited Nuremberg side who clinched the points through Czech defender Marek Nikl mid-way through the first half.

Bayern Munich had Croatian Marino Biliskov to thank for keeping them in with a shot at the title as the Wolfsburg defender put past his own goalkeeper to give them the points ten minutes before half-time.

Hertha Berlin are back in the hunt for a Champions' League place after defeating fellow hopefuls Schalke 04 2-0. Strike-pair Michael Preitz and Alex Alves got the goals for the home side in a three-minute burst after the restart. Both sides now have 61 points.

Werder Bremen remain on course for a Uefa Cup place after coming from behind to beat relegated St Pauli 3-2. St Pauli stunned Thomas Schaaf's side with goals from Christian Rahn and Thomas Meggle in the opening 16 minutes.

But Bremen hit back through World Cup hopeful Torsten Frings six minutes into the second half and drew level with an own goal by St Pauli defender Holger Stanislawski.

Frings capped the comeback with the winner and his second of the afternoon with 11 minutes to play.

Kaiserslautern stay level with Bremen on 56 points after crushing Energie Cottbus 4-0. Goals in each half from Vratislav Lokvenc and Miroslav Klose made sure of the points.

Freiburg will join FC Cologne in the second division after losing 2-0 away to Friedhelm Funkel's side. Carsten Cullmann and Matthias Scherz sealed Freiburg's fate. 1860 Munich fought out a 3-3 draw with Stuttgart, Germany star Martin Max and Silvio Meissner each scoring a pair, while Hansa Rostock and Borussia Monchengladbach drew 1-1.

**Werder 3 St. Pauli 2, Nurnberg 1, Bayer 0, Hertha 2, Schalke 0 0, Hansa 1, Borussia (M) 1, Wolfsburg 0, Bayern 1, 1860 Munchen 3, Stuttgart 3, Kaiserslautern 4, Energie 0, Cologne 2, Freiburg 0, Hamburger 3, Borussia (D) 4.**

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Borussia (D)	33	20	7	6	60-32	67
2. Bayer	33	20	6	7	75-37	66
3. Bayern	33	19	8	6	62-23	65
4. Hertha	33	18	7	8	60-36	61
5. Schalke 04	33	18	7	8	51-34	61
6. Werder	33	17	5	11	53-41	56
7. Kaiserslautern	33	17	5	11	59-49	56
8. Stuttgart	33	12	11	10	43-40	47
9. 1860 Munchen	33	14	5	14	55-57	47
10. Wolfsburg	33	12	7	14	55-48	43
11. Hamburger	33	10	10	13	48-53	40
12. Borussia (M)	33	9	12	12	39-49	39
13. Energie	33	9	8	16	34-57	35
14. Hansa	33	9	7	17	33-51	34
15. Nurnberg	33	9	4	20	31-55	31
16. Freiburg	33	6	9	18	33-61	27
17. Cologne	33	6	8	19	23-59	26
18. St. Pauli	33	4	10	19	35-67	22

## GREEK FIRST DIVISION



AEK players celebrate their Cup win.

### AEK ATHENS WIN GREEK CUP

AEK gained sweet revenge for last week's devastating defeat to Olympiakos in the league by beating the Piraeus side in dramatic circumstances to win the Greek Cup.

Ilya Ivic netted the winning goal against his former club in the dying moments.

The victory also ensured that the Nea Filadelfia side kept up their remarkable record in Cup finals, boasting 13 wins out of a possible 16.

Unlike at the Olympic Stadium last week, when Olympiakos dominated and leapfrogged AEK at the top of the table by winning 4-3, it was Fernando Santos' team that looked sharper for much of this game.

Olympiakos, however, created the first clear chance when Stelios Yiannakopoulos broke down the right and drilled in a powerful shot which was well saved by Dionysis Hiotis.

With the game being played at a frantic pace, AEK created an opportunity of their own when, five minutes later, a close-range header by Demis Nikolaidis was deflected wide for a corner.

AEK were forced to make their first substitution in the 26th minute following a clumsy challenge by Yiannakopoulos on Michalis Kassapis, who was stretchered off and replaced by Giorgos Xenidis.

Olympiakos also had to make a change on the stroke of half-time as a groin injury brought Christian Karembeu's final to a premature end.

His replacement Jose Ze Elias was quick to make his mark, firing in a thunderous shot with his first touch which flew inches wide of the left post.

AEK brought the game to life in the ninth minute of the second half. Greece star Nikolaidis went on a mazy dribble into the Olympiakos area and earned a penalty for his side when he was hacked down by goalkeeper Angelos Georgiou.

Vassilis Tsartsis' spot-kick rebounded off both posts before Nikolaidis deflected a shot inadvertently into the path of Sotiris Konstantinidis, who forced the ball over the line to give AEK the lead.

Olympiakos recovered well and were rewarded with a superb equaliser from Giovanni 20 minutes from time. Yiannakopoulos curled in a free-kick from the right and the Brazilian forward rose brilliantly to head past Hiotis.

Giovanni's good work was then undone by a moment of madness as he was given his marching orders for kicking out at Konstantinidis off the ball, leaving Olympiakos to play out the final seven minutes with ten men.

AEK took advantage of their numerical superiority almost immediately, scoring the winner thanks to a header from former Olympiakos striker Ivic who had come on just seconds earlier.

**Panionios 4 Ethnikos Astir 0, Iraklis 2 Aris 1, OFI Cretatitos 2 Ionikos 0, Panathinaikos 3 Xanthi 1, Olympiakos 4 AEK 3.**

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Olympiakos	25	16	7	2	64-29	55
2. AEK	25	18	1	6	59-26	55
3. Panathinaikos	24	14	7	3	46-21	49
4. PAOK	25	14	6	5	53-39	48
5. Xanthi	25	11	6	8	32-25	39
6. Iraklis	25	9	8	8	31-34	35
7. Panionios	25	8	10	7	36-32	34
8. OFI Crete	25	9	6	10	31-33	33
9. Aris	25	7	8	10	24-29	29
10. Akratitos	24	6	5	14	28-39	23
11. Aigaleo	25	6	5	14	25-45	23
12. Ionikos	24	5	7	12	18-40	22
13. Ethnikos Astir	25	4	5	16	18-42	17
14. Panathai	25	2	9	14	24-55	17

## WORLD LEAGUES

# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

# FINALS SERIES

## MAJOR SEMI-FINAL 2ND LEG

### NEWCASTLE UNITED

(E Masi 16, 41)

### PERTH GLORY

\* Perth Glory win 4-3 on aggregate

Venue: Energy Australia Stadium.

Crowd: 17,503.

Referee: S. Micallef

Cautions: A Roberts (NU) 47, S Miller (PG) 36, J Petkovic (PG) 43.

Teams:

**NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Beltrame, Prentice (Zoricich 83), Roberts, Bingley, Dodd, Griffiths, Tsekenis, Baillie, Blagojevic, Masi, Moreira (McBreen 72).

**PERTH GLORY:** Petkovic, Horsley, Harnwell, Miller, Maloney (Faria 23), Despotovski (Deans 92), Hassell (Edwards 71), Junior, Mori, Pryce, Tarka.

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Esala Masi: The Fijian international was a constant thorn in the Glory's defence. Always full of running, an ever-ready striker, the Newcastle United star grabbed two goals for the home-side, which wasn't enough to see them progress to the Grand-Final.

## MAJOR SEMI-FINALS

### OLYMPIC SHARKS

(T Pondeljak 10, J Harris 40)

### SOUTH MELBOURNE

(R Liparoti 93)

VENUE: Marconi Stadium.

CROWD: 6,341.

REFEREE: E. Lennie.

CAUTIONS: J North (OS) 49, A Milicic (OS) 53, W Srhoj (OS) 87, S Iosifidis (SM) 69.

TEAMS:

**OLYMPIC SHARKS:** Bolton, Kohler, Wilson, Pondeljak, Halpin (Srhoj 85), North, Harris (Owens 66), Milicic (Macallister 75), Packer, Durante, Juric.

**SOUTH MELBOURNE:** Petkovic, Iosifidis, De Amicis (Sabljak 72), Durakovic, Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli (Liparoti 68), Sekulovski (Bacak 57), Murdocca, Kisnorbo, Boutsianis.

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Ante Juric: The Sharks tall defender played Mr Magician, one minute he was defending a possible Souths attack, the next minute he was up in the other half, ready to score a goal. His defensive duties were flawless, his aerial ability was second to none, finally he added an extra dimension to the Sharks attack.



Perth Glory have booked themselves a Grand Final spot in 2 weeks time, will the singing continue?

### LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
MORI Damian	Perth Glory	17
MILICIC Ante	Olympic Sharks	15
CARDOZO Pablo	Northern Spirit	14
FOSTER Paul	Brisbane Strikers	13
DESPOTOVSKI Bobby	Perth Glory	12
PORTER Joel	Melbourne Knights	11
BROWNIE Royce	Marconi	11
DA COSTA Toto	Melbourne Knights	11

### SUNDAY MAY 5TH PRELIMINARY FINAL

Newcastle United vs Olympic Sharks: Kick-Off 2,30PM,  
Energy Australia Stadium.

### SUNDAY MAY 12TH GRAND FINAL

Perth Glory vs Newcastle United/Olympic Sharks: Kick-Off  
TBA, Subiaco Oval.